

On June 6, 1944, Guo Chengsen stood among 150,000 allied soldiers as the invasion force set off for Normandy.

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Today, Guiyang is a popular destination for tourists attracted by the numerous ethnic minorities and delicious cuisine.

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The puppets are carved from animal hide in a process that combines folk drawing and carving arts.

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Olympic Flame Shines in Beijing

By Hou Mingxin

Zeus came down from the heavens Tuesday, bringing the Olympic flame to China for the first time ever.

The torch relay in Beijing started from the Great Hall of the People at 9:15 Wednesday morning after a short ceremony.

As the fifth stop on the international route, the Beijing leg of the Olympic torch relay was 55 kilometers long and took about eight hours to complete. It passed in front of icons of modern and historic Beijing, including Tian'anmen Square, the Forbidden City, Wangfujing and the China World Trade Centre, as well as Tsinghua and Peking universities. A total of 148 lucky torchbearers participated in the event.

The relay ended at the Summer Palace, where the last torchbearer, basketball star Yao Ming, ignited a ceremonial cauldron. This was followed by a celebration gala that marked the conclusion of the historic two-day event.



The Olympic flame makes its way from the Great Hall of the People to the Summer Palace Wednesday. (Above) Former high jumper and Paralympic fencer Qi Kaili carries the torch along the Third Ring Road.

Xinhua Photos

Putting a New Face on the Old Brands



Ruifuxiang, the time-honored store selling fine clothing and Chinese silk at Qianmen.

Photo by Imaginechina

By Chu Meng

The term *laozihao* refers to those outstanding traditional stores and enterprises with hundreds of years of history, high commercial credibility and high-quality products. Such enterprises have established their own famous brands and gained a good reputation in their respective areas, by virtue of both the quality of their products and their enduring survival.

Names such as Quanjude, for Peking duck; Neiliansheng, for shoes; Ruifuxiang, for silk; Tongrentang, for traditional Chinese herbal medicine; Zhangyiyuan and Wuyutai, both for tea, Daoxiangcun, for cakes and Zhangxiaoquan, for scissors, all qualify as "laozihao."

Mostly based in the historic cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Tianjin and Xi'an, many of these business are encountering difficulties in adjusting to the fiercer competition brought by the arrival in China of multinational corporations with modern enterprise systems and mass production technologies such as Macdonald's and Wal-Mart.

The Ministry of Commerce's department of commercial reform and development hosted a seminar Sunday titled Innovation and Development of Chinese Old and Famous Brands. The aim of the organizers was to promote the development of famous old Chinese brands.

"The Ministry of Commerce is formulating a set of standards for

the appraisal of China's old and famous brands, most of which have faced difficult times in recent years. The draft has been completed," Wang Yao, director of the ministry's department of commercial reform and development told *Beijing Today* Tuesday.

Wang said that standards aim firstly to give definition to the concept of Chinese old and famous brands, and to offer government support to these businesses, which are seen by many as part of the nation's heritage. "Their frustrations can be attributed to a combination of factors, including outmoded enterprise structure, conservative management, backward technology, outdated products and small scale operations," Wang said.

As early as 1993, the Ministry of Commerce had granted the title of "China's Old and Famous Brands" to more than 1,600 traditional stores and enterprises. These brands were all established before 1956 and remained well known in the 1980s, concentrating in three major sectors: garment, medicine and food and beverage.

Handcrafted becomes handicap

Qi Huilan, vice-director of Neiliansheng Shoes told *Beijing Today* Wednesday, "Most Chinese traditional enterprises depend on highly skilled craftsmen in the manufacture or preparation of their products. It is both time and money consuming to cultivate such skilled employees. Because of the emphasis on hand-crafted goods in these traditional industries, it is very hard, if not

impossible, to introduce modern mass-production manufacturing systems as used by companies like Nike or Addidas, for example."

An old Beijing saying goes, "Walk in shoes by Neiliansheng and you will see good fortune in your job." Founded during the Qing Dynasty, the shop bears an auspicious name meaning, "unhindered promotion in official ranks."

But despite the fame that has endured 150 years, the old Beijing shoe company is facing increasing challenges from consumers that want Italian leather pumps or a pair of Nike sports shoes. The Neiliansheng shoe store, however, which has specialized in making cloth shoes since 1853, has refused to be squeezed out by the competition and is one of the few still successful surviving old name brands in Beijing.

"In the last three years, sales of Neiliansheng cloth shoes have increased by 20 percent annually. Last year saw its total output reach 100,000 pairs of shoes, 10 times the average in the mid-1980s, said Qi, "Even though each pair of shoes cost at least 90 yuan (US \$11), nearly five times more than other popular brands, demand still exceeds supply. Surprisingly, middle-aged and young adults are accounting for a fairly large proportion of sales."

"But the higher the artistic and cultural element of Neiliansheng shoes, the harder it becomes to develop in the current market. Therefore in order to maintain the high quality of our shoes, we are very

careful about speeding up production," she added.

Qi stressed, "Neiliansheng's fame can be attributed to its insistence on providing quality products. Making a multi-layer sole takes hundreds of steps. And each square of sole requires at least 81 stitches; so making a pair of soles requires 5,000 stitches."

"However, while adherence to traditional methods is the main reason for the strong demand and high price, it is also an obstacle for the company's expansion. The fastest shoemaker can make only two pairs of shoes a day under such strict production rules," she said.

In fact, Chinese old and famous stores and enterprises have declined since China began to pursue economic reform and an open door policy in 1978. The decline gathered momentum in the 1990s, as new age consumerism began to take root in the major cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Xi'an and the relatively more prosperous coastal regions.

Such time-honored names as Neiliansheng, Ruifuxiang, Daoxiangcun and Quanjude can still be seen in Wangfujing and Dashilan at Qianmen, but with the exception of Quanjude, most of these old stores are being left behind in the wake of the country's rapid modernization.

(Continued on page 2)

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: JIAN RONG
EDITOR: HOU MINGXIN
DESIGNER: LI SHI

Free Personal Classifieds

Beijing Today is launching a free personal classifieds service. For sale and wanted ads, situations wanted and vacant, language exchange and personals, and rentals will be

printed free of charge. Email your personal classifieds (in English and Chinese) to info@ynet.com. Personal classifieds should conform to relevant laws and regulations.

CAAC OKs Two Private Airlines

China's General Administration of Civil Aviation has recently given the go-ahead for the establishment of two private airline companies, to be based in Shanghai and Tianjin.

Investors of the two companies are required to complete 14 items of pre-

paratory work in two years, including passing required aircraft flight and maintenance certification.

The planned airline company in Shanghai, a joint venture of Shanghai Spring International Travel Service and Shanghai Spring Charter Flight Travel Service, will operate passenger and

freight services from Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport.

The planned Tianjin company, a joint venture between Beijing Qili Logistics and two other companies, will operate passenger and freight services from Tianjin Binhai International Airport. It will also involve in goods distribution-

and storage on the ground.

The administration has so far given the go-ahead for the establishment of three private airline companies. Preparations for establishing a private airline company in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, received approval in February.

(Xinhua)

Heavy Polluters Urged to Clean Up

By Su Wei

The Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau released a list Monday of 28 heavy polluters that together account for 68 percent and 44 percent respectively of the city's sulfur dioxide and solid waste emissions.

The 28 enterprises include subsidiaries of two Hong Kong-listed power giants, Huaneng Power International and Datang Power International, Beijing Jingneng Thermo Power, five subsidiaries of Shougang Group, China's fourth biggest steel producer, and local heating providers, cement mills and oil refineries.

All the companies on the list have

been ordered to install effective environmental protection facilities, and those that still fail to comply with environmental standards by the end of the year will be fined up to 100,000 yuan (US \$12,000).

However, deputy director of the bureau Du Shaozhong believes that most of the named companies would prefer to pay a fine. At present, fines levied on plants emitting excessive amounts of sulfur dioxide, set at 400 yuan (US \$8.33) per ton on average, are far less than the actual cost of processing the sulfur dioxide.

"It is unlikely these offending companies will be willing to complete the required upgrades," he told Beijing media. "But desulfurization facilities must be installed and tested, enabling the city to reach its targeted annual reductions in sulfur dioxide and solid waste emissions."

Construction Workers to Receive Accident Insurance

By Yi Yi

A newly issued regulation by the Beijing Construction Committee stipulates that construction workers must be indemnified against work-related injuries for between 10,000 and 150,000 yuan. The trial regulation will be implemented from August 1.

According to the regulation, all

enterprises engaged in construction work within Beijing municipality must insure laborers and management staff working on the construction site against accident injuries. The insurance should be bought in the name of the construction project, the policy holder should be the contractor of the project, and the insurance should be valid from the starting to the ending date of the project.

The family of workers accidentally killed on a construction site should receive compensation of no less than 150,000 yuan, while those who suffer permanent disability as a result of an injury sustained on a construction site should receive compensation of between 10,000 and 90,000 yuan.

Pan-Pear-River-Delta Forum Closes

By Yi Yi

The three-day Pan-Pear River Delta Cooperation and Development Forum concluded last Friday with a frame agreement signed by leaders from nine southern provinces and autonomous regions as well as Hong Kong and Macao.

According to the agreement, signatories will follow voluntary, market-oriented, open, fair and mutually complementary principles to pursue regional coordinative and sustainable development.

Areas of cooperation cover ten main fields, including infrastructure, industry and investment, trade and commerce,

tourism, agriculture, science, education and culture exchange and construction, environment protection and sanitary and epidemic prevention.

In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the agreement, a cooperation mechanism will be established at three levels: a joint conference mechanism between governors and chief executives from Hong Kong and Macao, a coordinating system between general secretaries of the 11 members and a link-up implementation system between relevant government bureaus.

The area covers one fifth of China's territory, is home to one third of the country's total population, and has a GDP more than one third of that of the whole country, not including a total sum of one trillion yuan from Hong Kong and Macao.

Early-warning System Launched for WTO Disputes

By Yi Yi

China launched its first monitoring and early-warning system for trade remedy measures in Shanghai last Saturday. The move comes in response to the increasing number of trade disputes affecting Chinese companies since China's accession to the WTO.

The system, jointly drafted by Shanghai WTO Affairs Consulting Center, Shanghai Municipal Foreign Trade and Economic Commission and Shanghai Information Center, is based on the agreements on anti-dumping, anti-subsidies and remedy measures within the WTO framework.

Services provided by the early-warning

system includes: forecasts on quantity, future prices, dumping margins and industry damage to Chinese products exported to the United States; monitoring reports on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis on the various trade remedy measures taken by the US, inquiry and training services to response to anti-dumping investigations as well as charges.

Covered by the system are 189 varieties in 18 categories, such as textiles, home electronic appliances, steel and furniture, which now account for over 60 percent of China's total annual export volume to the US.

China has been confronted with an increasing number of trade conflicts and disputes with other WTO members since its entry to the WTO in December 2001. WTO members filed a total of 2,416 anti-dumping cases for investigation by the end of 2003, among which 356 cases involved China.

(Continued from page 1)

Their strongholds crumbled long ago with the onslaught of the new consumer culture dominated by fancy stores, young shoppers with an eye for western fashions and international brands. Some of the old shops have made a stand by redecorating and modernizing their product lines. But they seem to be fighting a losing battle against the new domestic upstarts and foreign retail chains appearing in China.

China's shift to a market economy since the 1990s has also posed serious survival challenges for these traditional name brands. Figures compiled by the China General Chamber of Commerce at the beginning of 2004 show that about 20 percent of these famous old brands had been operating at a loss for long periods of time and were struggling on the brink of bankruptcy. Around 70 percent were only just making a living. Only 10 percent were constantly running operating on a large scale and making good profits.

Call for innovation

In January 2003, Wangmazi Scissors, a famous brand founded in 1651, declared bankruptcy. The news made headlines all over China and focused discussion on the troubles faced by old and famous brands.

Wangmazi was once a household name in northern China. However the company introduced no new products after receiving the "old and famous brand" certificate in 1990. Meanwhile, its competitors were regularly turning out new products with improved designs and functions to attract customers. Also, Wangmazi failed to appreciate the value of its brand name, taking no measures to protect itself against the counterfeiters who were flooding the market with fake products.

The case demonstrated that as at many other state-owned traditional stores and enterprises, business was hindered by inefficient management, redundant staffing and unclear property rights.

Advance with time and technology

For those businesses that have weathered the changes of the past decades, the introduction of new management techniques has been a key factor. "The key to survival of old and famous Chinese brands lies in innovation while keeping the promise of maintaining traditions," Zhang Zhigang, vice-director of the industrial



Neiliansheng at Wangfujing, former shoe maker for the imperial court and China's best known shoe store.

Photo by Imaginechina

development department of the General Chamber of Commerce, was quoted as saying at the seminar last Sunday.

Donglaishun is an example of such reform. The 100-year-old company, famous for its mutton hotpot, rejuvenated itself through an aggressive expansion program which entailed the opening of more than 100 outlets nationwide by the end of last year. The caterer's revenue soared to 60 million yuan (US \$7.23 million) in 2003.

Donglaishun Group general manager Tang Qingshun told *Beijing Today* that after the property rights reform in 1995, the company adopted the franchise model to expand operations across China, at the same time vigor-

ously promoting the brand. All franchised outlets are required to operate in accordance with a set of strict regulations under the close supervision of the group to ensure the quality of the products and services.

"To protect our brand, our most valuable asset, we have patented Donglaishun not only in China but also in over 60 foreign countries and regions," Tang said. The group has an ambitious plan to increase its outlets to 200 next year and 300 by 2010, with a projected sales revenue reaching 1.5 billion yuan (US \$180 million) in 2005 and 3 billion yuan (US\$361 million) five years later.

Entering the new era

Along with the sustainable develop-

ment of China's foreign trade, "Made in China" has become a popular catchphrase. There are frequent media reports about China becoming a "world factory" and how "Made in China" will come to have the same status as "Made in the USA" and "Made in Japan" once did.

However, while goods made in China are occupying an increasingly larger share of the international market, there are still no Chinese enterprises that can rival the brand recognition of such multinationals as GM and Motorola. The key reason is that China has no giant brands of its own. To a great extent, China's share in the international market is typified by "extensive sowing with little yielding," or huge exports but low profits.

Qi from Neiliansheng said it is the company's market strategy that has kept it alive today. For example, the company has introduced several new patterns of cloth shoes to suit modern fashion tastes in the two years he has run the company. By successfully combining new designs with traditional techniques, Neiliansheng has maintained its popularity with Chinese people. "We're thinking about targeting the Chinatowns in the United States and Europe. There are a lot of people who stock up on our shoes when they visit China."

Wang Zemin, director of the general administration office of Ruifuxiang Fine Clothing Company told *Beijing Today*, "There was a time when a man of status in Beijing would be embarrassed to be seen wearing clothing not tailored at Ruifuxiang. But now, we have only two stores, one in Wangfujing and one at Qianmen. The profits they have generated in recent years are far from enough for the company to develop chain stores or license partners."

"Most of our costumers are foreign tourists. They spent tens of thousands of yuan on our fine silk cut into traditional Chinese style clothing, which has become a hot fashion worldwide. Each time I see the excited faces of those foreign visitors, I feel very gratified. However what we need now is a hand from government. We need governmental support, such as subsidized loans and favorable taxes. Policies to encourage and help promote old and famous Chinese enterprises in corporate restructuring, fund raising and management reform should be introduced," Wang said.

Public Security Review

Beijing's 110 emergency hotline received 6 percent fewer calls this week than during the preceding week, with reports of swindles decreasing by 20 percent. The police continued their crackdown on street crimes this week and 174 criminal suspects have been apprehended after investigations.

Break-ins mostly occurred at Dongba, Jianwai, Xinyuanli and Nanmofang in Chaoyang, Donghuashi in Chongwen, Dashilan in Xuanwu, Yungang, Dahongmen and Youanmen in Fengtai, as well as Haidianzhen, Wanshou, Huayuanlu and Qinghe in Haidian late at night, and in the morning and afternoon, while street thefts occurred most frequently at Chaowai, Hujialou and Hepingjie in Chaoyang, Beitapingzhuang and Washoulu in Haidian and Jianguomen in Dongcheng in the evening and late at night.

Taiyanggong, Hujialou, Wali and Yayuncun in Chaoyang, as well as Fangzhuang and Dongtiying in Fengtai were the most common places for auto-related crimes to take place, mainly at night and in the early morning.

(Information from Beijing Public Security Bureau)

Approvals for Land Development to be Halted

By Yi Yi

The municipal government will halt approvals for development of new land in the second half of the year, said Ding Xiangyang, director of the Beijing Development and Reform Committee.

Ding made the announcement at a planning meeting for Beijing's 11th Five Year Plan last Friday. According to Xinhua news agency, Ding indicated that the measure would likely have a negative effect on Beijing's overall economic growth, but would lead to sustainable development in the long term.

Beijing is currently facing a serious shortage of land resources. Apart from land reserved for agricultural use, only 10 to 20 percent of the land is usable. There are no specific stipulations on the approval of the development of land.

Tax Benefits Offered to New Cultural Enterprises

By Su Wei

Newly set-up local cultural enterprises such as newspaper companies, publishing houses, and broadcasting and film enterprises will enjoy a tax-free period of three years, according to a regulation passed at the 47th Beijing Mayor's Conference Monday.

Beijing mayor Wang Qishan delivered a speech at the conference, in which he listed other tax benefits aimed at speeding up development of the local cultural industry - such as tax cuts and waivers for non-profit cultural enterprises.

"We will spare no effort in creating a pleasant environment for the growth of the cultural industry in Beijing, for it is to become a pillar industry of Beijing in the future," he reiterated.

Children to Receive Free Immunization

By Yi Yi

The government has announced it will cover the cost of vaccine and immunizations for all Chinese children, according to a report in *Beijing News* Monday.

Covered by the measure are immunizations for tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, encephalitis and polio.

When the policy is implemented, the government's payout for vaccinations will increase from several hundred million yuan to 5 billion yuan. The report also revealed that the Ministry of Finance has agreed on the disbursement as a necessary public health measure.

Czech Seeks to Boost Visits from China

By Su Wei

The arrival Tuesday of a delegation of some 80 representatives of the Czech Republic from the tourism, commerce and arts sectors marked the opening of the four-day 2004 Czech Days.

According to Pavel Nemec, Czech minister for local development, 11 Czech commercial and industrial companies and 18 tourist agencies will hold talks with 23 Chinese commercial and industrial companies and 29 Chinese top tourist agencies.

According to the Czech Tourist Authority, the number of Chinese traveling annually to the Czech Republic is far less than the number of people from the Czech Republic visiting China.

Nemec says in September this year, the tourist authority will set up representative offices in Beijing and Shanghai, and next year a tourism and business promotion will be launched in 10 Chinese cities.

Bank to Set Apart Joint-Stock Company for Listing

China Construction Bank (CCB) announced Wednesday that it would set apart a joint-stock company and a state-owned group, which insiders consider a key step in realizing its target of stock market listing at the end of 2004 or early next year.

According to a bank spokesman, the newly-formed joint-stock company would inherit from the original bank all its major banking businesses and related assets, while the state-owned group would manage the remaining assets and debts.

The joint-stock company will also be entitled to own the bank's branches and use its trademark, Internet domain names and consulting hotline phone numbers.

The separation, the spokesman said, was an important decision in renovating the country's financial system and would favor the two sides to develop separate strategies toward their respective goals.

Meanwhile, the separation will refresh the record of the bank's capital adequacy ratio and non-performing loan (NPL) ratio, thereby helping enhance

the risk resistance and competitiveness of the joint-stock company.

The state-owned group, also shareholder of the new joint-stock company, would not be directly involved in the latter's business, but would take charge of setting up a market-oriented operation and management system by mapping out clear development strategies, revealed the spokesman.

He said that old deposit books and bank cards would remain valid and that daily business would continue as normal as preparations for the separa-

tion were wrapped up within 90 days.

CCB's non-performing loan (NPL) ratio is the lowest among China's big four wholly state-owned banks, standing at 8.77 percent by the end of March in compliance with the internationally accepted five-category loan classification system.

At the end of last year the State Council, China's cabinet, injected a combined \$45 billion dollars in foreign exchange reserves into CCB and the Bank of China to replenish their capital. The Bank of China has announced hopes to go public in 2005. (Xinhua)



Cars of the Future

The one week long 2004 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition kicked off on June 9.

By Sun Yongjian

Shanghai-based GM Auto (China) Corp. announced on Monday it would further its cooperation with its domestic partner in the next three years, investing \$3 billion to boost their annual vehicle output from the present 530,000 units to 1.3 million by 2007.

In the next two to three years, GM will unveil a new generation of autos, including 20 new models, in the Chinese market, Thomas Murphy, the CEO of GM, was quoted as saying in a Xinhua report on Monday. The GM brands involved in that new line-up of compact cars to luxury sedans will include Buick, Chevrolet, Opel, Cadillac, Saab and Wuling.

The investment program will also cover GM and p

GM To Up China Investment by \$3 Billion

artner Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp.'s (SAIC) co-establishment of a Pan-Asia Vehicle Designing Center in the next two years. That joint venture facility will be the first digital modeling vehicle development center in China.

In the financing sphere, GM will team up with SAIC's financial arm to form China's first vehicle consumer credit joint venture, GM Auto-SAIC Financial Service Co. That firm will provide auto loans covering the purchase of GM vehicles, and GM has filed an application for approval of the venture with the China Bank Regulatory Commission and expects an official reply soon, according

to Murphy.

Yet another chapter in GM and SAIC's partnership will kick off with the construction of an engine factory in Liuzhou, Guangxi Province, expected to have an annual production capacity of 300,000 vehicle engines.

"We are seeking to find a balance point between globalization development and localization development, by means of which to promote the core competitiveness of the localized joint venture, and to present more new products to meet the demand of Chinese consumers," Murphy said.

Domestic Media Conglomerate Extends Reach

By Su Wei

Shanghai Media Group (SMG), a multimedia conglomerate covering radio, television, newspaper, and the Internet, announced the establishment of a strategic partnership with Shanghai Mobile and Jiangsu Mobile last Sunday. The news was timed to break at the opening of the 10th Shanghai New Media Forum, which ran through Thursday.

"This is a step forward that shows our determination and efforts to become the nationwide supplier to Chinese mobile phone users," Li Ruigang, SMG president, said at the forum.

Through the company's General Packet Radio Service, Shanghai Mobile customers can use cell phones to watch and listen to programs from SMG member enterprises such as Shanghai Oriental Television Station as well as download pictures and news.

The second side of SMG's strategy is cooperating with China Telecom in providing media programs to users of broadband Internet networks.

Established in April 2001 as a product of national policy to develop China's "culture industry", the conglomerate last year reported total income of over six billion yuan (about \$726 million) and total assets amounting to 15 billion yuan.

SMG in February launched Dragon TV, an authorized television news source set to compete with the directly state-run China Central Television (CCTV). The move has widely been regarded as a crucial step in the reshaping and updating of China's media and entertainment market.

The group has already made bold moves into the international arena. In May 2003, SMG formed a strategic partnership with the American business television channel CNBC Asia Pacific to broadcast five-minute programs entitled "China Financial and Economic Briefs" six times a day on the CNBC network. The deal made SMG the first company from the Chinese mainland to produce programs for a mainstream foreign TV channel.

To establish a firmer base in the movie market, the group has teamed up with giant Time Warner to build ten "world-class" cinemas in major Chinese cities including Shanghai, Beijing, Nanjing and Wuhan.

Public Transport Push Means Big Business

By Sun Yongjian

Ongoing massive projects to expand Beijing's public transportation network in the run up to the 2008 Olympics has brought a new international competitor to the city. US-based Cubic Corporation, a major global provider of turnkey solutions and automated fare collection (AFC) systems for public transport including buses, bus rapid transit, light rail, commuter rail, heavy rail, ferry and parking, announced the establishment of a local subsidiary in Beijing on Wednesday.

Oil Giants Raise Refined Prices

China's two oil giants, CNPC and Sinopec, have both raised their ex-factory prices of refined oil, as the international oil price has stayed high for one month, according to Wednesday's *Beijing Times*.

A source from the Beijing branch of Sinopec cited by the newspaper said that its price of gasoline rose by 100 yuan per ton, and the price hike of diesel oil per ton was slightly lower than gaso-

line in the capital. John Annison, Cubic's vice president of the Asian Pacific zone, revealed at the press conference for that announcement that the company had confidently entered the bidding for a \$200 million AFC project to be held by the Beijing Communication Commission in six to eight weeks.

Cubic has been involved in over 400 projects in 40 major markets on five continents including London, Washington, D.C., Houston, Australia, Singapore and Thailand. Every year, nearly 10 billion rides are taken worldwide using a Cubic AFC

system, according to Annison.

Beijing's pending AFC system is likely to be set up in line with that of London, meaning that a single card will allow passage throughout the city's public transportation grid once the system is up and running.

Digital China, one of China's largest systems integration providers, will cooperate with Cubic to provide IT product distribution and e-commerce services necessary in the construction of such an AFC system, it was announced at the press conference.

China's oil producers normally consult oil prices in Singapore, New York and Rotterdam markets in determining the prices of their products and price fluctuation always show one-month delays.

"However the retail price of gasoline is also partially controlled by the government. So far, it is still hard to say if the retail price of gasoline will rise again," said Feng.

(Xinhua)

Global Brewers Flocking to Tap China Market

By Su Wei

The tug-of-war between SABMiller and Anheuser-Busch over Harbin Brewery, China's fourth largest beer maker, has again thrown the spotlight on quenching the growing Chinese thirst for a cool brew.

US giant Anheuser-Busch won the takeover battle through an offer of US\$720 million or HK\$5.58 a share for the Chinese brewer this week, trumping a HK\$4.30 per-share hostile bid made last month from arch-rival SABMiller, which announced it was withdrawing from

the bidding last Thursday. SABMiller owns 49 percent of China Resources Breweries (CRB), the country's second-largest beer maker, while Anheuser-Busch owns 10 percent of Hong Kong-listed Tsingtao Brewery, China's largest, a stake it plans to increase to 27 percent over the next few years.

CRB and Harbin control a combined 60 to 65 percent of the market in northeast China. With sales of about US\$6 billion last year, Chinese consumption is expected to overtake the US -

currently the world's biggest beer drinker - in a few years, according to Alice Hui, an analyst with DBS Vickers Securities in Hong Kong.

China's beer industry is crowded with some 400 breweries. "Leading domestic brewers are moving aggressively to acquire smaller firms and link up with global companies in their expansion path," said Tang Min, a researcher with the Beer Association at the Chinese Food Industry Federation. "You will see more acquisitions by foreign brewers."

Citicorp Ok'd to Form Insurance Firm

By Sun Yongjian

Citicorp, the giant New York-based financial consortium, received official approval from the China Insurance Regulatory Commission on June 5 to form a joint-venture life insurance firm with a domestic enterprise in Shanghai, Sunday's *Beijing Youth Daily* reported.

With the approval in hand, Citicorp subsidiary Travelers Insurance will cooperate with Shanghai Alliance Investment to invest in equal shares of a new life insurer.

The joint venture should be launched in 2005, an insider who asked to be unnamed told *Beijing Today* on June 8. The name of the company, its assets scale and its location are still undetermined.

Largest Steel JV Starts Production

By Sun Yongjian

A joint venture between Germany-based steel and iron giant ThyssenKrupp AG and a major domestic steel company has started production in Dalian, Liaoning Province, Xinhua reported last Friday.

The new company, ANSC-TKS Galvanizing, was established by Anshan Steel & Iron Group and ThyssenKrupp AG with a total investment of \$180 million. The company's factory is designed to have an annual output capacity of 400,000 tons of zincified plates for use in making automobiles.

Liu Jie, chairman of the board of directors of Anshan Steel & Iron Group told Xinhua that currently 90 percent of the zincified plates used in domestic auto production came from exports, meaning the new project could spell and end to long-term reliance on foreign products.

Purchase Paves Way for Chain Store HK Listing

By Sun Yongjian

China Eagle Group, a giant domestic investment company listed on the Hong Kong stock market announced Sunday that it had purchased a 65 percent stake in prominent domestic home appliance retail chain Gome Holdings. The buy was made for 8.8 billion yuan, the *Beijing News* reported on Tuesday.

Gome's drive to list on the Hong Kong stock exchange will be realized under the umbrella of China Eagle, according to the paper. That means that Gome packed assets meant for listing into a shell company named Gome Electrical Equipment Co., a 65 percent stake of which was then transferred to China Eagle.

The purchase cost was paid by means of issuing new shares and convertible bonds without any cash transaction, the *Beijing News* said.

Credit Suisse: Safety Leads to Satisfaction

By Zhao Hongyi

The second book in Chinese by Credit Suisse vice president Dr. H. U. Doerig, entitled *Operational Risks in Financial Services*, hit the shelves of local bookstores Tuesday.

In the new book, Doerig lists 100 risks facing commercial banks today and the ways to manage them, a bit of a departure from his first book, *Universal Banking*, that predicted the emergence of smaller-scale banks with comprehensive business services would be the trend of the future in the banking industry.

Last year, Credit Suisse enabled a number of Chinese companies, including CNOOC, Sinochem, ChinaLife and SMIC, to issue IPOs overseas and backed Sina and Netease in issuing convertible corporate bonds on NASDAQ.

The group is helping the Chinese government in evaluating investment opportunities for the country's newly established national pension fund.

Watch Out!

By Zhao Hongyi

Vacheron Constantin, the Swiss 250-year-old maker of premium timepieces, launched a major product exhibition and road show in Beijing last Friday.

On display in the two-day show were 156 wrist and pocket watches, including antique and modern models for men and women. The most precious were six museum-quality antique pieces made as early as 1848.

Vacheron Constantin's China tour is to hit 11 domestic cities, according to Jean Michel Paray, the brand's managing director for Asia Pacific region. The company's watches are sold at the 19 counters throughout China, including two exclusive outlets, one in Beijing and one in Dalian.

"We'll open a third shop in Shanghai in July," Paray declared.

Time for China to Take Its Place with G-8



Xinhua Photo

By Jeffrey E. Garten

China has become far more important to the global economy than most other G-8 members, such as Italy, Canada and even France. Over the past 20 years, it has been growing faster - 9 per cent to 10 per cent a year - than any other major economy. It is now the fourth largest trading nation, and in this decade alone it will surpass Germany to become the world's third largest economy, behind America and Japan.

It produces 20 times more steel

than the European Union; it is the second largest importer of petroleum; it is mounting the world's largest building programme of new nuclear power plants; it has the world's third largest car market; and it consumes about 40 per cent of all the world's cement.

China has become a major player in international finance. It receives more direct foreign investment than any nation but the United States. It has more foreign exchange reserves than any country besides Japan.

How it uses this leverage ought to be of major concern to Washington and Wall Street, and anyone - such as home owners, car buyers or average investors - affected by interest rates or the US dollar's value.

Next to the US, China has more impact on global supply and demand than any other country. Indeed, it is becoming as central to global manufacturing as Saudi Arabia is to oil. Want to know why prices of every-

thing from steel to copper are up? Look at soaring demand from Chinese companies and consumers.

China's ties to other emerging markets may also alter the course of global politics. A political bloc of big developing countries could have enormous influence in the World Trade Organisation, for example. There is a good chance that such a group will emerge, and under Chinese leadership.

Given all this, it is ludicrous for China to be on the periphery of the insider's club. There is no major global economic issue that will not involve the Middle Kingdom or require its cooperation.

But getting China into the G-8 won't be easy. Several European countries may object to a new member that is stronger and more influential. Japan may resent bringing in an Asian rival. China itself may not want the responsibility, preferring to be seen as a poor developing country that needs help, as opposed to assuming the responsibilities of its own

power. But these hurdles should not stop Washington from trying.

(Jeffrey E. Garten is dean of the Yale School of Management.)

Analyst's Take:

China joining the G8 Group is just a matter of time.

Two factors are blocking China from joining the group. One is the different views of the G8 members on China's politics and the degree to which it can be considered a market economy.

The other factor is China's present status as a developing country. This status is now the biggest diplomatic resource for China. If it loses this status, China will not only lose the favorable loan policy from the World Bank, but may also lose vast political support from other developing countries.

— Wang Yiwei, deputy director of the Department of American Studies, Shanghai Institute of International Studies, interviewed in Oriental Outlook

Fed Cautious on Rate Rise

By Tim Ahmann

Washington, June 8 (Reuters) - The Federal Reserve will do "what is required" to keep inflation in check if it turns out the forecast behind its view that interest rates can rise gradually is wrong, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan said on Tuesday.

"The (Fed policy-making) committee is of the view ... that monetary policy accommodation can be removed at a pace that is likely to be measured," Greenspan said in remarks prepared for delivery by satellite to a conference of bankers in London.

"That conclusion is based on our current best judgment of how economic and financial forces will evolve in the months and quarters ahead," he said. "Should that judgment prove misplaced, however, the (committee) is prepared to do what is required to fulfill our obligations to achieve the maintenance of price stability so as to ensure maximum sustainable economic growth."

The Fed has held interest rates at a 1958 low of 1 percent since last June but is widely expected to bump them up by a quarter-percentage point at the conclusion of its next meeting on June 29-30.

Some financial market participants are worried the Fed has already waited too long to move interest rates up and think the central bank may find itself having to push rates up more quickly than many now expect.

Greenspan said a sharp profit recovery among US businesses provided evidence of "the restoration of a significant degree of pricing power." He said the return of pricing power was also visible in accelerating core consumer prices.

The Fed chief noted that businesses were facing rising wage costs and higher prices for energy and other imported goods.

"To date, the aforementioned cost pressures have been relatively subdued," he said. "Nonetheless, the persistence of the rise in energy prices is a worrisome element in the cost picture."

Greenspan said a run-up in oil prices since 2000 reflected demand "beyond traditional commercial buyers and sellers," which should fall off "at some point" and ease pressure on prices.

Still, he said oil prices were a risk in the outlook.

"Higher oil prices, if they persist, are likely to boost core consumer prices, as well as the total price level, in this country," Greenspan said. "The recent modest declines in oil and natural gas prices may or may not signal a trend but are nonetheless welcome."

Local Report:

Greenspan's words suggest that the Fed has sufficient confidence in the recovery speed of America's economy. They have won the fight to resist deflation, so now they can shift their focus to preventing inflation.

In the first four months of this year, consumer prices rose at what would be an annual rate of 4.4 percent, compared with a 1.9 percent increase for all of last year. Core prices - excluding volatile food and energy - also picked up steam. So far this year, they went up at a rate of 3 percent, outpacing the 1.1 percent rise for 2003. — Chinanew.com

Analyst's Take:

Greenspan is certainly not ready to push the inflation panic button, but his attitude seems to be more open-minded and thus he will probably be willing to shift the rate hikes to a higher gear if that becomes necessary.

— Steve Stanley, chief economist at RBS Greenwich Capital

Paying Respect



People converged to pay their respects to the former President Ronald Reagan at Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in the Simi Valley on Tuesday. President Reagan's casket has been moved to the US Capital in Washington on June 9 and his formal state funeral will be held on June 11.

Xinhua Photo

Deutsche Bank Eyes Credit Suisse, Barclays

Berlin, June 5 (AFP) - Deutsche Bank is studying the possibility of a merger with Credit Suisse or Britain's Barclays, a source inside Germany's biggest private bank said.

Discussions were "at the initial stage" but a decision is to be taken "between now and the autumn", said the source, thought to be close to senior management, to the Welt am Sonntag newspaper for its Sunday edition.

The headquarters of the new bank would be located outside Germany.

"If there is a merger, Luxembourg could be chosen. In any case it will be in Europe and definitely outside Germany," said the source.

According to Welt am Sonntag the Credit Suisse link-up is the option currently favoured by Deutsche Bank. The bank's boss, Josef Ackermann,

is a Swiss national and was on the board of Credit Suisse until 1996.

In addition Credit Suisse's stock market value is 35 billion euros (42 billion dollars), roughly equivalent to that of Deutsche Bank, the paper said.

If the merger goes through the new grouping would represent the biggest banking operation in Europe, with equity of 52 billion euros.

On Wednesday Ackermann said the bank was "interested, in theory, by all acquisition opportunities."

Deutsche Bank held talks on a possible merger with US giant Citigroup at the beginning of the year, but the project was subsequently abandoned.

It also recently examined the possibility of making a bid for Postbank, the soon-to-be-privatised banking arm of Deutsche Post, but those plans, too, were dropped.

Home Depot to Expand to China

Atlanta, June 7 (AP) - Home Depot is expanding into China with the hope of one day becoming the largest home improvement store chain in Asia and rivaling the success it has had in the United States, company officials said Monday.

The Atlanta-based retailer would not say how many stores it plans for China or when its first store there will open, but it named Bill E. Patterson to the newly created position of Home Depot president of Asia.

Patterson will lead the company's expansion into China, one of the largest and fastest growing markets in the world, Home Depot said. In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Patterson said the company has big plans for China.

Home Depot has been talking for months about the possibility of expanding beyond North America. Currently, it has 1,740 stores in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Home Depot is the largest home improvement store chain in the US, with \$64.82 billion in sales last year.

BSkyB Plans Free Digital TV Service

London, June 9 (AFP) - British satellite broadcaster BSkyB announced plans to launch free-to-air digital television channels alongside its pay-to-view services.

The broadcaster said it would launch a digital satellite service later this year offering 196 free television and radio channels along with interactive features.

Customers will have to pay a one-off cost of 150 pounds sterling (226 euros) for installation and equipment including a satellite dish but there will be no subscription charge to access the channels, the company said.

BSkyB will be competing against Freeview, in which BSkyB is a partner, and which already offers people in Britain free-to-air digital television channels for a one-off cost of 50 pounds.

BSkyB also announced that it was developing a premium range of channels for owners of wide-screen televisions, plasma screens and home cinema.

Due to launch in Britain in 2006 and already popular in the United States, the high definition TV format offers enhanced picture quality.

BSkyB currently has a customer base of 7.3 million for its pay-to-view services, with individuals paying up to 50 pounds per month to watch exclusive viewings of films and live sport on British television.

Coke's No. 2 Executive to Step Down

Atlanta, June 9 (AP) - Coca-Cola Co.'s No. 2 executive, Steve Heyer, is stepping down after being passed over for the top job at the world's biggest beverage maker.

The announcement Wednesday said Heyer, the company's president and chief operating officer, will leave by mutual agreement after a transition period of several months. His plans beyond that were not disclosed.

E. Neville Isdell, a veteran Coke system executive who was named last month to replace Doug Daft as chairman and chief executive, said the decision followed discussions he had with Heyer over the past week.

Heyer, 51, has been at Coke for only three years. He joined the company in March 2001 from AOLTimeWarner, where he had served as president and chief operating officer of Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

He was president and chief operating officer of Coca-Cola Ventures before being elected to the company's No. 2 position on December 11, 2002.

Heyer's departure from Coke could signal even more top-level changes at the company.

Isdell, 60, is an Irish citizen who worked in the Coke system mostly in Europe, the Middle East and Africa for 35 years.

Microsoft Appeals to Top EU Court

Luxembourg, June 8 (AFP) - Microsoft vowed to overturn a landmark European Union anti-trust ruling that forces major product changes on the US software giant after filing an appeal with the EU's top court.

The company's lawyers renewed their assault on a March ruling by the EU's executive commission, which slapped multi-million euro fines on Microsoft and ordered changes to the way it sells its Windows operating system.

The commission fined Microsoft a record 497 million euros (612 million dollars) and ordered changes to the way it markets its Windows operating system after a five-year investigation into the group's overwhelming market dominance.

Under the commission ruling, Microsoft was given a deadline of later in June to offer computer makers a separate version of its Windows operating system that does not include its media player audio and video software.

The world software leader, denying it abuses its dominance to crush rivals, vowed at the time to challenge the negative ruling at the European Court of Justice, and to ask the court to suspend the fine and product changes.

9 Dead, 39 Injured in Chaoyang Fire

By Zhou Ying

A fire that broke out in a residential building in Chaoyang District around 4 pm Wednesday took nine lives and left 39 others injured, the *Beijing News* reported yesterday.

By 5 pm, the inferno that ripped through a building on the grounds of the Jingmin Mansion compound near the North Fourth Ring Road had been put out.

Secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee Liu Qi, Beijing Mayor Wang Qishan and other government officials arrived at the scene shortly after to inspect the accident site, supervise rescue work and deal

with remaining problems.

Witnesses and compound residents speculated that explosions just before the fire broke out may have been the cause. "I heard the sounds of explosions, just like firecrackers," said one resident.

Flames quickly burst out of the windows of the four-storey building and the extreme heat was felt by the people in nearby residences, said another witness, who identified herself only as Ms. Wang.

Zhou Qiang, leader of the security department of Jianxiang Mountain Village, located 400 meters from the charred building, said he saw

many people appeared at windows on the fourth floor and one man try to climb to the ground on a sheet tied to a window. "But the sheet ripped and he fell," Zhou recalled.

He said that ambulances quickly arrived and rescuers began running back and forth from the building carrying out the injured. Then, suddenly, two Red Flag limousines drove up and blocked the building's main door, at which point a man emerged and jumped into one of the cars.

"Just then, a head of the fire squad asked a worker who was the general manager of the building. The worker pointed at the man who had just

ducked into the car and said he was the general manager. Two fire fighters then forcefully dragged the man in question from the car," Zhou said.

An Jing, who lives in a building opposite the site of the accident, captured the entire event on camera. "I started taking pictures at about 3:40 pm after taking pictures of the Athens Olympics torch relay earlier in the day," he said.

Preliminary investigations indicate the cause of the fire was jars of combustible pool cleaning chemicals in a first floor storeroom set alight by a spark from an electric wire, Beijing police said.



A man injured in the fire is escorted from the scene.

Bimmer Award Spells Justice Done

By Wang Fang

After months of disappointment and anger, on June 4, Liu Liang of Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, finally got the keys to a BMW car and 120,000 in cash he won in the local sports lottery.

The 19-year-old security guard had not been able to claim his prize, won in March, due to questions of the validity of his ticket and later exposure of a scandal revealing corruption within the lottery organization.

In a simple ceremony, the head of the Xi'an Sport Lottery Center declared Liu's precious ticket valid and Li Minghua, director of the Shannxi Provincial Sports Bureau, and Wang Kaili, director of the Xi'an Sports Bureau, offered apologies to Liu.

At last, Liu received a notarized certificate of ownership and the keys to his new car. He received his cash as well, though far less than the original sum of 120,000, most of which had to go towards covering the hefty taxes for the BMW.

On March 23, Liu bought a scratch lottery ticket that ended up a winner worth the top prize of the BMW and the large cash payment. The following day, however, the Xi'an Sports Lottery Center informed him his ticket was fake and refused to turn over the loot.

Furious that he was both denied his car and cash and publicly humiliated, Liu climbed to the top of a billboard standing near the center and threatened to jump off to prove his innocence.

A subsequent police investigation uncovered shocking fraud within the lottery network. Yang Yongming, a lottery ticket sales contractor, had colluded with a few others to mark winning tickets and illegally claim four top prizes of BMW cars and 120,000 cash payments. Yang and his accomplices have been arrested and confessed to the crimes.

The case also shone light on people within the lottery system, who appeared in court from March 20 to 25. Jia Qing'an, director of the Shannxi Sports Lottery Center, Vice Director Zhang Yongmin, and Fan Hong, director of the Xi'an Lottery Center, were charged with fraud and misuse of authority, following the arrests of Wu Yanhua, deputy of lottery distribution for the Shannxi center and Dong Ping, notary for the Xincheng notary-public office for fraud.

After Liu's victory over the corrupt lottery leaders, other people in Shaanxi have begun to question whether they were likewise cheated out of deserved prizes. The head of the lottery center said 50 other people had in fact entered the second round of the lottery and that plans were being made for a fair drawing to give those bilked customers a chance to win dream cars of their own.



A local boy enjoyed a hands-on lesson in sumo technique before the real wrestling began on Saturday.

Super Atomic Wedgie! Japanese sumo comes to the capital

By Zhang Nan

Nearly three dozen massive kings of the ring were in town last weekend for a demonstration performance of the traditional Japanese sport of sumo wrestling at Capital Gymnasium.

They were the stars of a 111-member delegation that came to China from the neighboring island nation to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of air links between China and Japan.

Saturday's meet began with demonstrations of sumo skills and etiquette by the sumo masters, after which came an exciting competition that included top-ranked wrestler Yokozuna Asashoryu.

"I hope this event will lead to an exchange between sumo and Chinese kung fu," said Japan Sumo Association Chairman Kitanoumi, as quoted by *China Daily* the day of the event.

Chinese wrestler Lu Chao came back to his native land as part of the delegation, his first return since heading to Japan to learn sumo and wrestle professionally three years ago.

Lu is the highest ranked of the six Chinese currently in Japan's sumo circuit.

The sumo delegation arrived in Beijing last Thursday. "Japanese sumo stresses rank and status, so we arranged their accommodation according to their

rankings," said Meng Dong, sales manager at the New Otani Chang Fu Gong Hotel where the beefy men were put up. Retired sumo masters were given luxurious suites and top-ranked wrestlers got premium business-class rooms, while junior athletes were piled two to a regular room.

Sumo wrestling dates back approximately 1,500 years. The last sumo delegation came to China in 1973 in order to celebrate the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Japan.

On Monday, the sumo delegation set off for Shanghai for two more performances at Shanghai Gymnasium on Wednesday and Thursday.

Coalmine Collapse Traps Ten

By Dong Nan

Rescue workers are searching for 10 miners trapped underground after a tunnel collapsed at noon on Sunday in a coal mine on the outskirts of Beijing.

The accident occurred at the Da'anshan Coal Mine in Fangshan District, 90 kilometers from downtown Beijing, while 16 miners were working underground in the east and west tunnels. The 10 trapped men were working in the east tunnel 3,000 meters underground.

Oxygen and compressed air were pumped into the collapsed tunnel on Tuesday through two shafts drilled the night before to ensure the trapped miners had ventilation.

Those air injections should increase the chances of finding the men alive, Li Jianwei, director of the Beijing Production Safety Administration Bureau told Xinhua.

However, as of noon Thursday, at which point that had been trapped underground for nearly 100 hours, there had been no response from the men.

According to Li, rescuers are trying to drill a hole to directly reach the tunnel and bring the miners out, but it was a difficult task because the east tunnel has completely collapsed. Zhang Kesheng, general engineer for Beijing Coal Group told Xinhua that the area's complicated underground geological

structure, a blend of thick stone and coal, was also obstructing faster rescue work.

An expert from the rescue group who would not give his name called it the most difficult mine rescue operation in Beijing in 30 years.

Li said that eight of the 10 men are from Sichuan Province and all had signed formal contracts with the Da'anshan Coalmine, had safety insurance and had undergone training on underground survival organized by the mine.

The municipal government is paying close attention to the accident and has demanded all-out efforts be made to rescue the trapped miners. Leaders including Mayor Wang Qishan, Vice Mayor Lu Hao and senior officials from the State Administration of Work Safety rushed to the scene to direct rescue work shortly after the collapse on Sunday.

"We will and are doing all we can to bring them home," Mayor Wang said to the rescuers on Monday. Ten ambulances and doctors have been standing by outside the mine since Wednesday morning.

"As soon as the miners are rescued, we will deliver immediate first aid and then send them to one of Beijing's best hospitals," promised Lu Peng, head of the rescue team, as quoted in the *Beijing News* yesterday.

Unnatural Beauty Sues Pageant Organizer

By Zhang Nan

Standing up for the rights of recipients of cosmetic surgery everywhere, surgically-enhanced model Yang Yuan is suing the organizer of a local beauty pageant who disqualified her from entry for a week as a result of her remolded face.

Yang's suit against Beijing Grand Cultural Media, the company at the head of the organizing committee for the Miss Beijing competition as part of the 33rd Miss Intercontinental pageant, was accepted last Thursday by Beijing Dongcheng District People's Court.

"I'm glad that the court has accepted the case and I am confident that I will win," Yang, 18, told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday. "They must give me a satisfactory explanation and apologize."

Four years after beginning her professional modeling career at the young age of 14, Yang paid 110,000 yuan in February to receive extensive facial surgery. "The fact that I was not beautiful had been an obstacle in the development of my career," she said.

Fully healed, Yang in May registered to enter the Beijing leg of the Miss Intercontinental competition and got into the finals. Not long after, members of the pageant's organizing committee got a peep at photos of her before and after receiving cosmetic surgery printed in an advertisement for the hospital that did the work.

On May 21, she unexpectedly received notification from the committee that she had been dis-



Yang Yuan holds up the second invitation to the competition before angrily tearing it to pieces. Photo by Wang Duan

qualified from the competition as a result of her plastic surgery.

However, she was quickly let back into the pageant since the competition's regulations did not specifically rule out participants who had undergone plastic surgery, as *Beijing Today* reported on May 28. Furious at what she felt was unfair discrimination, Yang tore up the organizing committee's second invitation and refused to get back into the pageant.

An article in the *Beijing Times* last Friday said, "Yang thought the Organizing Committee's behavior hurt her and damaged her reputation."

In the suit, she is demanding Beijing Grand Culture Media issue her a public apology and provide compensation of 50,000 yuan for psychological damages.

Zhao Chaofeng, director of the news office of the pageant organizing committee and Beijing Grand Culture Media, dismissed her allegations, telling *Beijing Today* last Tuesday, "We do not think we discriminated against Miss Yang. Nor do we think it is necessary to apologize to her."

He said the organizing committee had no intention of harming Yang's reputation.

Turning over a New Leaf Pop star Hong Dou out of prison



Hong Dou Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

By Zhou Ying

Wang Liyong, better known in China as pop star Hong Dou, was recently released on probation from prison and signed up for employment by the Beijing Capital Art Song and Dance Ensemble last Wednesday.

Wang was sentenced two years ago to a three-and-a-half-year term in prison for involvement in a child molestation crime.

The former pop idol told *Beijing Youth Daily* last Thursday that he was not particularly happy after returning to general society on April 30 and felt unsure about his future. "I don't

know if I'll ever go back to a normal life. I really need people to be tolerant, but I have no idea about what kind of place will be open for me in society," he was quoted as saying in the paper's report.

The Beijing Capital Art Song Dance Ensemble picked up the fallen star and plans to involve him in projects for public benefit, exactly what Wang has said he wants to do. "I think it is our duty to provide assistance to those people who have lost their way and encourage them to bravely face society," said Liu Jian, director of the ensemble.

Hong Dou should soon return to impromptu stages giving free performances in orphanages, retirement homes and prisons, Liu added.

However, some performance companies have balked from adding Hong Dou to their bills in shows on that tour, fearing angry reactions from the audience.

The warden who watched over Wang called him a model member of the prison community. "He joined a performing group and sang songs. He wrote in jail to other prisoners," the warden said on condition of anonymity.

Wang ended up penning

more than 80 tunes during his prison term. "Now I know how to be a responsible person and I won't do anything to harm others," he told *Beijing Youth Daily*.

Wang issued a public apology through the newspaper last Wednesday, expressing hopes that the public would give him a chance to turn over a new leaf.

"Due to my improper actions, I have hurt others and myself. I will thoroughly rectify my errors and show the public what I have learned in prison. Again, I want to apologize for what I have done to society," he pleaded.

Need a Little Help Getting Divorced?

By Zhou Ying

Divorce is on the rise at 8 percent a year in China. As millions more figure out ways to lose their partners, an industry is growing up to meet their needs. A Divorce Consultation Center was recently launched in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, following the opening of others in Shanghai and Shenyang. So what exactly is on offer?

The company can provide consumers with various services, including investigation and legal consultation. The company also offers counseling services and plans for couples to rebuild their relationships. But if divorce is the only option, the company also offers legal aid.

According to Sun Lingyun, the center's director, both psychological and sociological experts will first examine a couple's marriage. He stressed that there is no need to fear that the company will encourage the couple to get divorced just to make a profit. "You need to pay 500 yuan for the marriage examination, and if the experts agree that divorce is the only solution, there's no need to pay any more money. But if the couple wish to maintain their relationship, then they can pay 200 to 300 yuan for our consultancy services."

Shanghai was the first city in China to establish a divorce consultation company in March this year. Their main target consumers are white collar workers. People have different attitudes toward these companies. Some believe that it is a kind of social retroversion, because it encour-



Shu Xin, the manager of Shanghai weiqing Consultation Company



Price list of Shanghai weiqing Consultation Company

ages more couples to break up. But others think it's a humane and modern service.

Jiang Tao, a lawyer with experience in divorce cases

I think these companies can play a positive role in problem solving. At least they can provide people with psychological consultation services, which is very important and of great help.

As far as my job is concerned, less than 50 percent of people who want to get divorced resort

to the law. I think it is because people's concept of the law is wrong. They assume it's a lot of trouble if they seek help from a lawyer. Most of them would rather choose to solve the matter personally. I believe this puts many women at a disadvantage.

The company is more like a friend, to whom you can say what you want without hesitation. Say if you need a friend with whom to share some secrets about your marriage, you have to find someone who is dependable, and possesses the relative knowledge. In that sense, the companies professionalize this kind of "ideal friend". But the fact they are strangers makes them safer to confide in, just as you put money in a safe.

The most valuable thing that the company can do is to provide psychological consultation for consumers. As far as I know, the majority of women who want to get



A woman at the door of Liaoning Divorce Consultation Center

divorced suffer a lot mentally. They always complained a lot to me when I accepted their cases. However, as a lawyer, what we really care about is the case itself and the legal side. There should be a place to hear about their difficulties and sufferings. It is of great help for them to talk about it, and the company is the right place for the victims' voices to be heard.

Furthermore, I think the company should cooperate with related departments, such as law offices, and the courts. After all, divorce is a complicated problem, involving law, psychology, education, morality and ethics.

Lin Bai, a teacher with Beijing Broadcasting Institute

I don't think this kind of company can have a bright future. Solving marriage problems should depend on social organizations, not a commercial company.

Marriage problems are a social problem. We cannot deal

with it properly through a company whose final purpose is profit. The company says it can estimate the viability of a couple's marriage; how can I know their staff are professional and dependable? At least, they should employ people with a professional background.

In addition, since the company makes a profit from managing divorce affairs, it is possible that they may encourage couples to get divorced. It is just like some clinics where the doctors use any means they can to diagnose people as being ill.

I have heard that the company in Shenyang is not that normal. Their service is quite horrible. If your spouse does not want to get divorced, they can hatch a plan to fabricate extra-marital relations. I think there should be a regulation to stipulate what such companies should do and what they should not.

Zheng Hong, a maths teacher from Beijing Union University

I think that this kind of company is of great significance. At least they provide people with another way to solve a problem.

Most ordinary people do not know how to deal with the issues surrounding divorce, such as the problem of property. They really need to consult with professionals. Therefore the company is a good choice, because most people cannot afford legal fees. As far as I know, you have to pay several thousand yuan for a lawyer.

It also shows that the division of labor in China is becoming much more elaborate. I hope the company can be professional, and efficient.

Wang Xiaoxiao, a journalist with Mirror Newspaper

I think that marriage is a personal thing, and strangers cannot give it some evaluation. We cannot analyze marriages with reasonable thought. It is only the couple themselves that know whether their marriage is in danger or not. Therefore, I think the result of the company's estimation is worthless.

But it is helpful if the couples can talk about their problems. In that sense, the company is really a good choice. However, what people need is to find an ear to listen, instead of receiving an answer. The company can give suggestions, but they do not have the right to offer a verdict on a marriage.

Some people believe that such an estimation is worth taking into consideration. But I think those people are not confident in their marriage.

Shu Xin, the manager of Shanghai Weiqing Consultation Company

I really feel sad that most people call our company a "Divorce Company". Just like the name of our company, our main task is to maintain people's relationships, instead of encouraging divorce.

People in our company are experts from different fields. We only employ those who are qualified, and all of them hold a professional license. Till now, more than 1,500 people have sought help from our company, and most of them have been satisfied with the job we have done. Speaking about the company in Shenyang, I personally think that they do not really know what they should do. All they care about is profit.

In the beginning, many experts from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences held an incredulous attitude towards our company. They thought that people could not accept such a service in China. But now they know that it is really of great help to society. I have helped prevent five people from committing suicide, and all of them regain courage after our consultation.

What the company tells people is that they should learn to communicate, understand and tolerate each other.

Ferry van de Pavert, a private doctor in Holland

It is common for people go to such agencies for advice on their marriage. If the marriage is over they can get divorced the same day. Simple as that.

For a divorce they have to go to the municipal office in town. For those who want to try and save their marriage, such an agency is ideal. It can play a very positive role in saving a marriage.

You always need a third party to prevent a divorce if both parties want such help. A third person can get the respect that the two sides have lost for each other. As soon as you do not respect the other person you need a third party to show you the way out of your problems.

So this kind of company is a good thing for couples and the community. It can also save a lot of hardship for children who are otherwise the victims of desperate parents.

Susanne Messmer, a reporter and journalist from Germany

In my country, the divorce companies are financed by the government, and I think it is a very good idea.

Actually there are many divorce companies in Germany. The company can provide a chance to keep the couple together, settling their financial problems and problems involving their children.

There are also some private divorce companies. I think both are good. There are many experts in psychology, and laws. They have help people to solve their problems.

By Zhou Ying

New computer software for deciding criminal penalties is being used in a court in Zibo city, Shandong Province, according to a recent report in *Qilu Evening News*, a local Shandong newspaper. The judge can simply type in the details of the case, hit return and wait for the computer to tell him what to do.

It's intended to put an end to arguments over whether judges have been unduly influenced by some extraneous factor in arriving at their conclusions and to avoid perceptions of imbalance in court verdicts.

But experts and ordinary people appear to be uncertain about this development. The focus of the controversy is whether a computer can guarantee a just verdict.

According to legal experts, measuring the penalty for a crime is a difficult and complex process, because the judges have to take everything into consideration, not only the letter of the law. Each case is different from others, so the judges have to impose the penalty according to the particular characteristics of each case. As Oliver Wendell Holmes, a famous American lawyer, once said, "The life of law is experience after all, rather than logic."

Some people feel this system is worth a try, because it can free judges from the confusing influence of an endless range of factors in making their decision. The computer penalty merely depends on a settled programme, neglecting any human relationship. This system embodies the fairness and justice required by law, they say. Moreover, the result thrown up by the computer is not the ultimate judgement; it is the judges that have the final word. So are people right to worry about the idea of a computer deciding their fate?

Yue Liling, a professor of the Criminal and Judicature Institute from China University of Political Science and Law

Similar systems exist in foreign countries. In Scotland, they started researching this system because they had some judges who always imposed more severe penalties than judges of other similar cases. From other countries' experiences, we can

Justice by Microchip



Could computers take the place of traditional judges?

see that using digital criteria for imposing penalties is indeed of help in keeping balance in the application of law.

Of course, imposing penalties by computer will have an impact on traditional methods. However, when the judges apply the computer, although many factors can be typed in, they cannot totally depend on the computer to analyze all the various factors. If we were in absolute pursuit of imposing the penalty by computer, there would be no need to have the judge; what the court would really need would be computer operators.

Surely this system has its own advantages. If we enhance the research and development of the system, adding as many factors as possible, the results can be used as criteria. But the disadvantage is that the judge may then run into obstacles when considering the measurement of the penalty, which could obstruct the purpose of the punishment.

Wei Zhensheng, a director of the operations department of Beijing Zhong Tong law office

I do not think that this system is practical. The measurement of the penalty is a

judiciary activity according to the facts of the case, the character of the criminal, and the relative laws. It is complicated, difficult, and integrated brain work, instead of a certain kind of simple mechanical movement. Therefore, it is hard to do by system.

Merely using a computer cannot ensure the justness of judgments. And that's without the problem of security of convictions. If a false or unfair conviction is made, then it is hard to ensure a just penalty even if there are uniform criteria for judgement. In reality, problems with justice most often occur with false convictions, rather than the measurement of the penalty.

The measurement of the penalty involves the consideration of details based on the experience of the judges. There's practical experience, the spirit of the law, and many other mental judgments which it's hard to master by computer.

Liu Jinghua, the deputy presiding judge of Beijing People's Supreme Court

In China, the people's court is the principal authority in reaching a measurement of the just penalty. To impose a pen-

alty by computer is not supported by the law. Man makes computers, and computers are not entitled to the right to impose penalties.

There are two disadvantages to using computers to decide penalties. Firstly, the computer lacks the ability to think dialectically. Computers use modal logic, which has limitations. There are many complicated and incompatible parameters which a computer simply cannot balance. Secondly, the computer is lifeless, without emotion. It appears impartial and incorruptible. However, it is actually an inhuman machine, which has difficulties in handling the proper and fair limits. It is a little bit childish to pursue justice through a computer. After all, all the parameters of measurement of penalties are chosen by humans.

Zeng Yuexing, a professor of law at Yunnan University

In Zurich, Switzerland, judges have been using computers to help reach judgements since the 1970s. The judge's assistants, instead of the judge, conduct this task, while the judge will only give a necessary hint according to the current situation.

In most American courts,

however, the judge will decide the penalty according to detailed guidance. It is not a contradiction. On the contrary, the quantification of the measurement of penalties represents the crystallization of judicatory experience.

It is a hard task in China to conduct measurement of penalties. However, we should at least try to follow avenues of progress.

Chen Xingtian, a lawyer from Beijing Zhi Hao law office

I think the application of the computer in the course of imposing a penalty does not contradict the law. It is really a meaningful effort and is worth practicing. However, it is actually illegal if judges are forced to apply this system, because this system cannot offer judicial explanation.

However, in my opinion, this system cannot guarantee the justice of judgments. As everyone knows, to fit the punishment to the crime is a fundamental principle. What the judge should always consider is how the penalty should be suited to the social harm brought by the crime. Therefore, making sure the judgment is impartial is a relative request, instead of an absolute requirement.

I still hold that the measurement of penalties by computer should be a means, instead of a procedure. At the same time, I am afraid that this system may lead judges to have a dependent mentality.

Ferry van de Pavert, a private doctor in Holland

It is new to me to hear about deciding penalties by computer. I personally like the idea as it may have a lot of good points for the criminal, and the judge may also be more satisfied about delivering a more correct penalty.

A criminal always has the disadvantage that he or she is seen as a bad person anyway. A computer could disregard the personality of the criminal and only look at the facts if it's proven that a criminal deed has taken place. So much depends on how the proven information is formulated to a computer. Can it be done properly? Or is this just adding another link in the chain of justice between the crime and the sentence?

By Dong Nan

More and more large green spaces have been appearing around Beijing in recent years, both in parks and public areas, but what's new is that they stay green even in winter time. That's because many of these newly cultivated areas use imported cool season turf grasses, which come mainly from Europe and North America. These foreign grasses stay green several months further into winter than native Beijing grasses.

However, according to many experts, excessive use of these cool season grasses is harming Beijing's gardens and environment.

Trees threatened

According to Cui Haiting, professor of the Department of Ecology, College of Environmental Sciences, Peking University, cool season turf grasses come from an oceanic climate, which has fairly humid weather. Therefore, to suit Beijing's continental climate, which is dry, these grasses need lots of irrigation. This obviously upsets the balance with native plants which are accustomed to the drier weather of Beijing, such as pine and cypress trees.

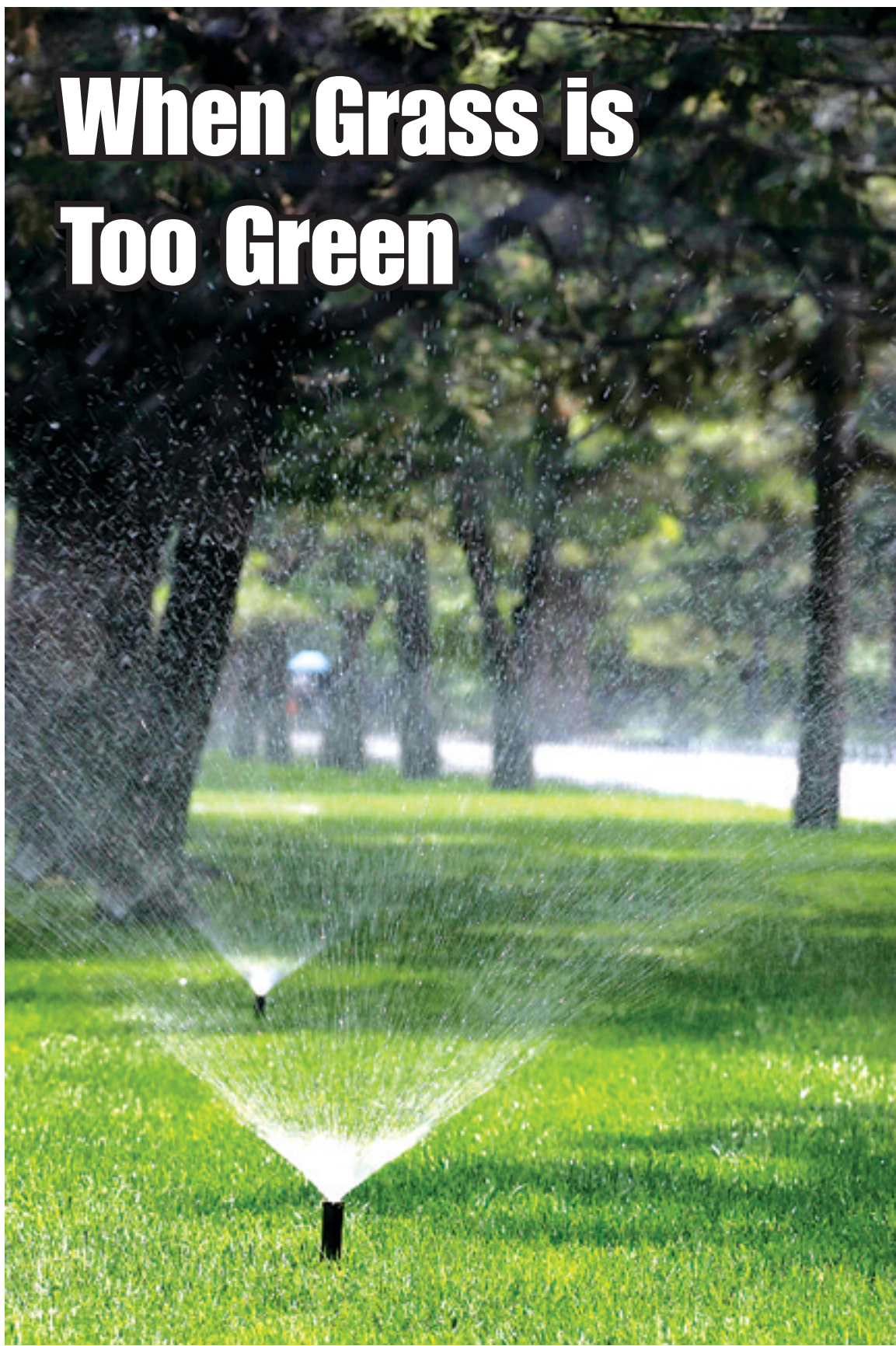
"Some pine trees in Jingshan Park have died in recent years," said Tan Lihua, retired vice professor of Beijing Municipal Bureau of Parks to *Beijing Today*. "Many of them are very old. What a pity!" She thought that it must have something to do with the cool season turf grasses which have been introduced to the park over the last few years.

The same problem can be seen in The Temple of Heaven. Behind the *Qiniandian* (The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest), the leaves on pine trees, which are on ground replanted with cool season grass, are yellow and very thin.

"The roots of those pines and cypresses need to breathe more freely than many other species, and too much water can make them suffocate and perish," said Yang Zhenduo, retired vice president of The Temple of Heaven to *Beijing Today*. "And the whole environment for roots is damaged."

He also mentioned a kind of plant which grows around the roots of pines, that can help the roots to get nutrition from the earth; too much water destroys these plants.

Hidden threats exist as well. According to Yang, to suit the dry climate, roots of pines and cypress trees grow deep to reach water beneath the ground. But too much irrigation on the surface of the ground makes the roots become more and more shallow. If a gale blows up, the shallow roots are less able to



Cool season turf grasses need to be irrigated very often

support the big trees, and it's easier for them to be blown down. And if a drought comes, it's hard for the shallow roots to grow deep again.

"Ancient trees in Beijing are a kind of cultural relic. Whoever damages them would be seen as a criminal later in history," said Su Xuehen, retired president of the College of Gardens, Beijing Forestry University.

Ecosystem affected

The ecosystem of lawns and native biodiversity is also being damaged by the introduction of cool season turf grasses, said Cui Haiting to *Beijing Today*.

He pointed out that the pines and cypress trees in The Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace had grown over hundreds of years, and the biodiversity of the shrubbery and grass under the trees had also developed over this long time. He said the species of shrubbery and grass in the two parks are now not so numerous as before.

Also, insects – which play their own vital role in the health of the green areas – appear to be avoiding the imported grasses. To gather evidence of this, Yang Zhenduo and his colleagues used to conduct a test. They used

small gauze nets to drag for insects in lawns. In lawns of native grasses, they could collect more than 20 insects in one square meter; in cold season grass lawns, the number was almost zero. And earthworms, which have a beneficial effect on the soil, also avoid the imported turf.

"Historic gardens should be preserved in their appropriate surroundings. Any alteration to the physical environment endangers the ecological equilibrium, and should be prohibited," wrote Cui Haiting in *The Florence Charter*, established in 1982 by the International Council on

Monuments and Sites. He warned that the introduction of new species in ancient parks such as the Summer Palace and The Temple of Heaven should be conducted carefully, and with concern for ecological balance.

A waste of resources

According to Huang Zhenduo, cold season turf grasses need to be irrigated three to four times every week, while native grasses are far less thirsty.

"Beijing already has a great shortage of water; why do we plant so much cold season grass that claims so much water?" asked Su Xuehen. He mentioned various places where you can see people irrigating the lawns almost every day, "even the campus of Beijing Forestry University."

Cold season turf grasses can live for five years generally, but their growth declines after three years without careful maintenance. Extra works, which cost a lot both in terms of money and manpower, need to be conducted regularly.

According to the estimation of Xu Zhichang, retired general garden engineer of The Temple of Heaven, it costs more than 20 yuan per year to maintain one square meter of cold season turf grasses. This is far more expensive than for native grasses.

Is it beautiful?

Sure, cool season turf grass looks more orderly and lends green color to Beijing in winter, but is it really beautiful?

"What scenes can be called beautiful? A natural scene, but only a harmonious scene," said Xu Zhichang.

Huang Zhenduo believed that the fresh green color of cool season turf grass is not in harmony with the whole tone and atmosphere of The Temple of Heaven, especially in winter.

"While all the leaves on the trees turn yellow and fall, the grass is still a fresh green. It looks strange and even ridiculous," said Huang. "Different seasons have different scenes, and the winter of the north should look like what it is. A green and orderly lawn in winter might look beautiful separately, but it does not match the rest of the environment."

Cui Haiting pointed out that at the Summer Palace, there used to be various wild flowers, blossoming in white, purple, blue and pink in spring, summer and autumn one after another. But they've mostly died out with the coming of cool season turf grasses.

"I think it is fine to grow some cool season turf grass in places such as plazas and squares," said Tang Zhiyao, teacher at the Department of Ecology, College of Environmental Sciences, Peking University. "But whenever I see them on the campus of Peking University, I feel uncomfortable."



The leaves on pine trees behind the Qiniandian, The Temple of Heaven, are yellow and thin

Photo by Li Shuzhuan

It just doesn't look natural."

Tang said such cool season grasses were uncommon in European countries. "I've seldom seen manicured lawns like the ones in Beijing when I have visited Germany in recent years," he said.

In fact, early in 2002, Beijing Forestry Bureau released a document forbidding large-scale use of cool season turf grasses. However, according to Huang Zhenduo, since it did not specify what size "large-scale" was, many places, such as the new Madian Garden, are still using this kind of grass.

Revival of native grass

"In fact, many native grasses suit the environment and can endure drought very well," said Tan Lihua to *Beijing Today*. "I often see them on the roadside. Nobody waters them or takes care of them, but they can grow well."

"I believe that with some cultivation, the native grasses could make a decent lawn. I cannot understand why people regard them just as weed and want to get rid of them." Tan appealed to botanists to conduct more research into using native grass more widely in Beijing.

Xu Zhichang suggested the best way to build a garden is to follow the principle of nature, and let nature choose ideal species by itself.

He said he used to plant mixed seeds of native grasses without taking special care, and the kind which was most suitable to that ground would grow best and then form a decent lawn naturally. This method also saves money and water.

Yang Zhenduo told *Beijing Today* that he had a pleasant surprise last month when he visited the Summer Palace. By a lawn of cool season turf grass which had not been carefully maintained, a kind of native grass called eryuelan with little purple flowers had begun to grow again.

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Chinese Forced Labourers Appeal

By Wang Fang / Sun Ming

Last Friday, 15 Chinese men who were used for forced labor in Japanese coalmines during the Second World War appealed to Japan's highest court after Fukuoka High Court overturned an earlier ruling by a district court favoring their claims for compensation. The men had sought compensation and an apology for being forced to work in coalmines in Fukuoka Prefecture for the Mitsui Mining Company. The district court ordered Mitsui to pay compensation, but on May 24 Fukuoka High Court decided a 20-year statute of limitations had expired before the men launched their claim.

The lawyers for the Chinese forced labourers proposed the Japanese government should "set up a postwar compensation fund" to resolve the forced labour issue. It's estimated that around 40,000 Chinese men were used for forced labor in 135 mines and harbours in Japan, but so far none of them have succeeded in getting any compensation. The case of the 15 men is the first to even reach the appeal stage.

Victory in Fukuoka district court

The 15 Chinese forced labourers are from Hebei Province and were forcibly taken to Japan from 1943 to 1944. They were forced into hard labour in Miyike and Tagawa coalmines which belong to Mitsui Mining Company in Fukuoka Prefecture until Japan surrendered in 1945.

In May 2000, 14 survivors and the descendant of one of their colleagues who did not survive launched a court case against the Japanese government and Mitsui Mining Company, claiming an apology and compensation of 23 million yen each for the inhuman

treatment meted out to them during the war.

It was the first ever lawsuit brought by forced labourers to be accepted by a Japanese court. Previous lawsuits had been turned away on the basis of the statute of limitations.

On April 26, 2002, Fukuoka district court agreed that the men had been forced into virtual slavery in Japan and ordered Mitsui Mining Company to pay them 165 million yen in damages. However, the compensation was not paid. According to the Meiji Constitution, founded before the

'At 10:30 am, the news came that Fukuoka High Court acknowledged the fact that the Japanese government and its enterprises forced the Chinese into working in mines. However, it rejected the claim submitted by the forced labourers due to the expiration of the statute of limitations. These old men were shocked, so some of them began to cry and some of them buried their heads in hands.'

Second World War, the state cannot be sued for compensation. So the Fukuoka district court rejected the claim made by the plaintiffs against the Japanese government and referred the full burden of compensation to Mitsui.

Neither the Mitsui Mining Company nor the plaintiffs were satisfied with this judgment. On May 9, 2002, lawyers for the Chinese forced labourers appealed to Fukuoka High Court with a view to investigating the state obligation of the Japanese government.

Rejected by the high court

On May 24, 2004, a verdict was announced by Fukuoka High Court. Even though the court recognized the men had been used for forced labor and agreed that this was illegal, both on the part of the Japanese government and Mitsui Mining Company, it still rejected the compensation claim of the plaintiffs on the grounds that "the statute of limitations had expired."

On the same day, a press conference was being held at the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese War Memorial. 10 of the Chinese plaintiffs came to the memorial, hoping to hear successful news and their Chinese and Japanese lawyers came as well.

"At 10:30 am, the news came that Fukuoka High Court acknowledged the fact that the Japanese government and its enterprises forced the Chinese labourers into working in mines; however, it rejected the claim submitted by the forced labourers due to the expiration of the statute of limitations. These old men were shocked, so some of them began to cry and some buried their heads in hands," *Beijing Morning Post* said on May 25.

Just after the press



Zhang Baoheng (R), 81, fights back tears May 24 during a press conference after the Fukuoka High Court denied him and 14 other Chinese men redress from the state and Mitsui Mining Co. for being used as forced labor in Japanese coal mines during World War II. Liu Qian, 82, another plaintiff, is seated at center.
Photo by Photocome

conference, one of the plaintiffs, Zhang Wukui, 78, shouted out, "I have something to say. We won't accept this verdict!" He stood up with his crutch, trembling. "We were often beaten and abused in Japan. As long as they admit that we were taken away by force, they should compensate us. This decision is wrong and we won't accept it," he said with

tears on his face. The other old men sitting near him shouted their agreement.

Zhuang Wukuai said that he was forced to board a ship to Japan when he was only 16. He said he did not have any other wishes at this age but to win the case; otherwise, he would die with a grievance. Tu Zongren, another plaintiff who is 82 years

old, was taken away when he was 14.

Onoyama Yuji, the head of the Japanese lawyers for the Chinese plaintiffs said that as long as their clients agreed, they would appeal to the highest court. The legal team also hope to set up a postwar compensation fund.

Questioning the statute of limitations

Onoyama Yuji, who led the legal team for the Chinese plaintiffs in the appeal to the high court said at the press conference that the case of the forced labourers was special, as it was an international case and had caused great damage. So it was inappropriate and even inhuman, he said, for the defendants to be exempted from responsibility due to the lapse of time.

"In fact, the court has admitted that it was true that Japan and the Japanese government took away the labourers by force. So they must recognize the political, historic and moral obligations. We will continue to work for the forced labourers until it is finally solved. The loss today also reminded us that we should seek a political solution," he said.

The presiding judge at Fukuoka district court, Mr. Kimura, agreed that overturning the men's appeal on the basis of the statute of limitations was "seriously against the notion of justice and fairness."

On June 6, lawyer Kang Jian, who went to Japan to represent the forced labourers said in an interview with *Oriental Morning Post*, a Shanghai-based newspaper, that there were 24 other cases relating to compensation claims and that this was the first to enter the appeal phase. None of the other cases have yet succeeded in being awarded any compensation.

Despite the letter of the law about the statute of limitations and inability to sue the state, there has been growing support in Japanese legal circles in recent years for claims of compensation from Chinese plaintiffs. The facts of these cases had not even been acknowledged prior to 2000, but now they are not denied.

"But none of the Chinese plaintiffs have been compensated yet," said Kang.

Dark Memories Become Dust

By Sun Ming / Liu Mingtang

The impending demolition of No. 2 Liji lane, Nanjing, is causing quite a local rumpus, for this is no ordinary building. It's believed to be the last of the notorious "comfort stations" in Nanjing, where Japanese soldiers forced local and Korean women into sexual slavery. Local people feel the building should be protected as a historic relic, but the municipal authorities say there's not enough evidence of the building's notoriety and they're ready to swing the wrecking ball.

A dark chapter

"Comfort stations" started appearing in 1931, when the Japanese army invaded Northeastern China. After the Nanjing Massacre in 1937, comfort stations spread to wherever the Japanese had a presence in order to keep the troops happy. Whether through force or deception, women from Korea and China were coopted into sexual slavery for the Japanese military. These women were referred to as "comfort women" by the Japanese Imperial Army. It is estimated that 400,000 women were forced into sexual slavery and only 10% survived the ordeal. Just 500 are believed to be alive today.

Despite numerous lawsuits which gained the attention of the world's press, Japan did not admit to the use of comfort women until 1993. Japan has always denied any official approval of the brothels, arguing they were created by civilians. Some Japanese used to claim that the comfort women were in fact just ordinary prostitutes.

After the occupation of Nanjing by the Japanese army, many comfort stations were set up in the city, but all except No. 2 Liji lane have been knocked down.

Did it happen here?

First built in the early 1930s, the building has been a residence for citizens since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Last November, invited by a local organization in Nanjing, Park Oak Sun, 80, a woman from South Korea, came to Nanjing. Park identified the building as the former brothel where she had been forced to serve Japanese



Is this Nanjing's last comfort station?

Photo by Gao Linsheng

army as a sex slave. The local media picked up the story and plans to demolish the building were temporarily shelved. But at the beginning of this year, residents of the building received a notice requiring them to leave.

But after receiving notice from the Real Estate Administration Bureau of Baixia District, residents began moving out on April 8 this year.

"We can move out, but we hope the building won't be pulled down," a resident

surnamed Tao told reporters. He has been living there since childhood and heard many stories about the building from his grandparents. "We oppose removal of the site, not because we live here, but because it is irrefutable evidence of what Japan did in China," said another resident surnamed Li. Many residents in No. 2 Liji lane expressed the same viewpoint.

However, a staff member from the Real Estate Administration Bureau of Baixia District told *Beijing Today* yesterday that the building hadn't been confirmed as a comfort building.

"The brick building is so old that it might collapse someday. And the floors are wooden. It's really dangerous to live in such a building," said the staff member.

Protection

Xu Ning, spokeswoman for the Nanjing Government, told Xinhua last Thursday that the building won't be removed until a group of experts examine it and decide whether indeed it was a comfort station.

However, a number of experts specializing in the study of comfort women are not in any doubt. Professor Jing Shenghong of Nanjing Normal University, mentioned that there used to be many former comfort station sites in Nanjing, "but most of them were destroyed. Only No. 2 Liji lane, is left. I have suggested to the concerned departments that they should protect it, but in vain."

Professor Meng Guohui of Nanjing Medical University argued that the particular historic background endowed the building with valuable historic and cultural significance, even though it has not been approved as a cultural relic. "Cultural relics can not be reproduced. We have had many such lessons."

Why is the building not protected? According to a local expert in cultural relics, the site has not been listed as a cultural relic for protection, so the concerned municipal department has no power to protect it legally. Professor Jing Shenghong confirmed this argument. He said a meeting had been held last year to call for protection of the site, but experts' suggestions had not been adopted.

China's war with Japan seems pretty distant from the Battle of the Atlantic or the D-Day landings and, as yet, China's participation in these western conflicts has not been recorded in the world's history books.

However, as more and more stories of the war have emerged in recent years, some world-renowned newspapers have followed up reports of young Chinese faces on ships in the Atlantic and at the Landing Operation in Normandy.

By Jiang Jiqiang/Sheng Mingming

The world has been focusing last week on the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6, 2004, but not many people know that Chinese soldiers were present on the beaches of Normandy.

As the war turned against the Axis powers in 1943, a squad of Chinese soldiers had been chosen to work with the allies, learning their methods in various western theaters of conflict. They were successful in their tasks and 20 men were selected to take part in the famous "Operation Overlord" to encircle and crush the Nazi regime.

It's now known that 20 Chinese soldiers participated in the Normandy landings, but sadly most of them are no longer alive to see their role recognized. Huang Tingxin, 86, is the only veteran known to be still alive. 84-year-old Guo Chengsen died suddenly on May 27 this year, just as preparations for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day were beginning.

Reporters from *Beijing Youth Daily* visited the family and neighbors of Guo Chengsen in Dalian, to seek some traces of his forgotten history. When talking about his father, Guo Xiaochen, the third son choked with tears. "A good-bye ceremony was held at the Dalian Lahutan Navy's Retired Cadre Institute on May 29," he said, "just as simple as the kind of life my father had always lived: low-key and simple."

To war on the other side of the world

Born in a wealthy family in 1920, Guo Chengsen was a native of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. Shortly after graduating from junior high school, 14-year-old Guo saw a recruiting notice for the Fujian Mawei Naval Academy. He immediately decided to take the examination, which led to his enrollment in the Navigating Department of the Naval Academy.

Graduating from the Mawei Naval Academy in 1942, Guo was assigned as ensign to the Fourth Gun Emplacement of the Yangtze River Bank Defense. The next year was pivotal in the Second World War, as Russia turned back the German army and the allies gained the upper hand. To prepare for the reconstruction of Chinese naval forces after the war, a group of 80 young navy officers was sent to Britain and the United States for overseas training. Guo and 19 fellow officers were sent to Britain.

The Greenwich Navy Institute set up a special class for these 20 Chinese students and trained them in accordance with traditional methods of the British Royal Navy. The students were then sent to different battlefields, practising on giant active warships.

Guo Chengsen was designated as assistant ensign to a Kent-class heavy cruiser of the British Royal Navy. On April 30, 1944, near Alta Fjord in Norway, Guo Chengsen spotted an enemy submarine and sent out a warning, enabling the ship to avoid two torpedoes. Following retaliation from the British ships, the German U-boat was sunk.

Returning from this success-



Parade with the Allied countries' national flags on June 6.

Photo provided by Zhao Sheng

China's Part in D-Day



30-year-old Guo Chengsen



Guo at home in Dalian in 1999

Photos provided by Guo's family

ful mission, Guo Chengsen and Lu Dongge, another Chinese officer, were invited to have dinner with the ship's captain, an honor for officers who had made great contributions in battles. Guo was able to tell the captain in English at the dinner table, "This is most valuable experience and also a lifelong memory for me. We'll apply all that we have learned here to the future reconstruction of the Chinese navy."

Later that year, Guo was also involved in the famous Battle of North Cape, in which British battleships sunk the vast German destroyer Scharnhorst.

Onto the beach

On June 6, Guo Chengsen and his 19 Chinese comrades stood among 150,000 allied soldiers as the largest invasion force in history set off from the shores of England for Normandy. Though the operation was a strategic success, it still claimed 2,500 allied lives in the space of a few hours, as the soldiers disembarked onto beaches and ran into a hail of gunfire from heavily armed German positions. The 20 Chinese soldiers strove hard in the shower of bullets and bombs and all survived.

Guo Chengsen seldom talked to others about this experience, said Guo Xiaochen, his third son who pieced together bits of stories from his father's colleagues. "The sky was red with fires, and there was thick, suffocating smoke. The soldiers jumped into the sea and swam towards the beachhead against the surging waves. Many were hit just as they were reaching the beach. The bodies were washed onto the beach and the sea was red. It was a horrible scene."

The Allies succeeded in gaining a tiny foothold on the coast

of Normandy. However, their positions were still very precarious and the German reaction, after the initial surprise, was swift. The Battle of Normandy lasted nearly three months – far longer than Allied strategists had anticipated.

Guo's part in the war didn't end there. At the beginning of 1945, Guo was involved in the convoy of the British delegation headed by Prime Minister Winston Churchill to the Yalta Conference. This was a particularly risky journey, not just because of the floating mines set by the German forces around Yalta, but also the threat of assassination.

During the mission, Guo and his fellow comrades arranged every detail of the journey with great care. When the delegation returned to London after the successful journey, Churchill was introduced to the crew. The captain introduced Guo and Lu Dongge to the prime minister who congratulated them.

Back to China

After two years and eight months' training in the British Royal Navy, Guo Chengsen returned to Shanghai in May 1946. He was first designated as the drillmaster to the Kuomintang Central Training Corps for military officers, and then promoted to deputy captain of the flagship of the navy, the Changzhi.

Guo soon found himself out of sympathy with the Kuomintang so he offered his help to the Communist Party. On May 1, 1949, an insurgency was led by one of Guo's proteges, Chen Wangbang, an officer on the ship Yongxing. Together with some progressive officers, Chen led an uprising at the mouth of Liuhe River, a branch of the Yangtze River. The uprising failed and Guo Chengsen was immediately listed as wanted by Kuomintang. Protected by the Communist Party, Guo left for Shanghai, where he continued to help inspire uprisings on other ships. On September 9, 1949, the crew of Changzhi launched a successful insurgency.

Following the birth of New China, Guo was appointed captain of Changzhi (which had been renamed Nanchang) on April 23, 1950. It was a proud moment as this was the flagship of the people's new navy.

While serving in the navy headquarters, Guo drafted many documents, rules and regulations, teaching materials, and even some marine glossaries. He was transferred to the Dalian Naval Vessels Institute as a drillmaster in 1954, and became deputy director of the operation staff room of the Qingdao Naval College in 1957. He returned to the Dalian Naval Vessels Institute in 1963 and taught there ever since. Many of his students have become leaders in the navy, and various colleges and institutes. But Guo was happy with a simple life as a teacher.



Photo of the Chinese soldiers before they left China in June 1943. Guo Chengsen is the third from right in the front row.

Where are the 20 Chinese D-Day veterans?



Huang Tingxin

■ Huang Tingxin

Born in Anqing, Anhui Province in 1918, Huang Tingxin served on the light aircraft carrier Seeker during the Battle of Normandy. He was off-duty on the night of the landing operation. He is the only one of the 20 veterans known to be still alive.

■ Wang Xianqiong

Born in Hubei Province in 1917, Wang Xianqiong served on the light aircraft carrier Seeker with Huang Tingxin.

■ Guo Chengsen

Born in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in 1920, Guo Chengsen graduated from the Fujian Mawei Naval Academy. He died on May 27, 2004.

■ Lu Dongge

Born in Hebei Province in 1913, Lu Dongge was the eldest among the group of navy officers sent to study in Britain and the US. The date of his death is unknown.

■ Guo Denghua

Born in Fuzhou, Fujian Province in 1920, Guo Denghua graduated from the Fujian Mawei Naval Academy. There is no reliable information about him since he left

for Taiwan in 1949.

■ Zhang Jiajin

Born in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province in 1917, Zhang Jiajin graduated from the Qingdao Naval Academy. He was a schoolmate of Huang Tingxin and served at the Navy Headquarters in Shanghai.

■ Qian Shiqi

Born in Hunan Province in 1917, Qian Shiqi graduated from the Qingdao Naval Academy. There is no reliable information about him since he left for Taiwan.

■ Wu Guiwen

Wu Guiwen is believed to have been born in Guangzhou in 1915 or 1916. He graduated from the Guangzhou Naval Academy. There is no reliable information about him since he left for Hong Kong after liberation.

■ Wang Anren

Born in 1917, Wang Anren graduated from the Qingdao Naval Academy. He died in a ship collision in the Taiwan Straits after liberation.

■ Jiang Yu

Born in 1913 in Sichuan Province, Jiang Yu graduated from the Kuomintang Lei Dian School, majoring in navigation. There is currently no reliable information about his whereabouts.

■ Xiong Deshu

Xiong Deshu was born in Hunan Province. He died in the United States but the exact dates of his birth and death are not known.

■ Zhou Jian

Born in 1920 in Sichuan Prov-

ince, Zhou Jian graduated from the Qingdao Naval Academy. He once served as the defense minister of Taiwan. There is currently no reliable information about his whereabouts.

■ Chu Yuzhang

Chu Yuzhang was born in Henan Province in 1918. He was sent to Britain for advanced training after graduating from the Qingdao Naval Academy. Chu Yuzhang returned to China after joining the ship Chongqing, previously named Alexander, a British Mediterranean ship presented to China by Britain in return for using Chinese merchant ships in Europe during the Second World War. There is currently no reliable information about his whereabouts.

■ Xie Lihui

Born in Henan Province in 1918, Chu Yuzhang graduated from the Qingdao Naval Academy and was later sent to Britain for advanced training. There is currently no reliable information about his whereabouts.

■ Ye Qitong

There is currently no reliable information about him and his whereabouts.

■ Wu Fangrui

A native of Shanghai, Wu Fangrui is believed to be still alive. Like Chu Yuzhang, he returned to China after joining the ship Chongqing.

There is little information about the four others who served in the Battle of Normandy.

By Zhang Huan

Three apartments at Jinqiao Huayuan (Golden Bridge Garden) in Majuqiao, Tongzhou District, stand out from the others. Two billboards at the entrance read Cui Yongping Shadow Play Art Museum in both Chinese and English. The museum, which boasts of over ten thousand exhibits, is privately owned and operated by Cui Yongping and Wang Shuqin, who have been practicing the art of shadow puppetry for most of their lives.

Shadow puppetry, or *piying*, is popularly believed in China to date back some 2,000 years to the Han Dynasty, although some scholars argue that the anecdotal evidence for this claim is, at best, questionable. There is, however, no doubt that the art form flourished during the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and became popular throughout China since then. Similarly to the shadow puppet theater that appeared in India and Indonesia around the same period, stories are acted out

by backlit, brightly painted leather puppets silhouetted against a screen, accompanied by the singing of traditional folk opera.

The puppets are carved from animal hide in a process that ingeniously combines folk drawing and carving arts. Donkey skin, which is easy to color, is preferred for the heads, while ox or goat is generally used for the torso. Some 24 procedures are involved in turning a piece of skin into a puppet, including scraping, polishing, washing, carving and coloring. Even the simplest puppets are carved with at least 3,000 separate cuts.

Cui Yongping, 59 years old, is the former head of the Beijing Shadow Puppet Art Troupe. He joined the troupe at the age of 14, studying performance and learning how to make the shadow puppets. He and the troupe have toured internationally, in Japan, Germany, France and Austria, where he says the troupe was warmly welcomed. It was after



The three-apartment museum houses some 10,000 shadow puppets, the oldest of which dates back to the Ming Dynasty. Except for three rooms occupied by the couple and their students, every inch of space in the apartments is used to exhibit Cui's collection, even the kitchens and hallways.

Shadows of an Ancient Art

'I am not worried about the future. As long as I set up this museum, where I can show and spread the art, other things will follow.'



Cui leads his students in rehearsal.
Photos by Wang Wei

these overseas performances that Cui decided to establish a museum dedicated to the art of shadow puppetry.

However, in China, the art of the shadow play is in decline. Few people today grow up with the art, especially children, for whom cartoons have replaced the characters of shadow puppet plays. "Actually shadow plays are the earliest form of cartoon, which has existed for 2,000 years and has so many interesting stories," said Cui in an interview with *Beijing Today* on May 23.

In 1993, Cui suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed, however the setback did not prevent him from carrying out his plan to set up the museum. Traveling all over China in search of materials, he poured every spare cent into collecting shadow puppets.

"He did not tell me what happened in his travels to collect those items until later," said Wang Shuqin, Cui's wife, who is also a shadow play artist. "Once he went to Huaxian County in Sichuan Province to collect shadow puppets, after he had recovered a little from the stroke. He had to hire a motorcycle to get to

one village, but due to the lack of control of his muscles, he had to ask the driver to tie him to the back seat with rope!"

Cui's efforts finally came to fruition on April 22 this year, when he opened the self-funded museum in three apartments he had originally bought for his family. "I do not have much time to waste," he said, "I have been waiting 11 years for this day."

The three-apartment museum houses some 10,000 shadow puppets, the oldest of which dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). There are another 20,000 in storage, simply because there is not enough room to display them. Except for three rooms occupied by the couple and their students, every inch of space in the apartments is used to exhibit Cui's collection, even the kitchens and hallways.

Colorful, exquisitely carved puppets are hung on the walls, attached to curtains, piled on shelves, in wardrobes and display cases. Instruments used to accompany performances are stationed in corners behind the screen set up in one room. In front of the white-cloth screen, there are

rows of chairs for the audience. One third of the exhibits are made by Cui and the rest are his collection from all over China.

Wang Shuqin says once Cui decided to open the museum, he was scrupulous about saving money for it, "He even begrudged buying a new pair of trousers," she said. The museum does not as yet charge an entrance fee. "Sometimes, when guests ask for a performance, we would ask our old friends and students to come here to help, then we would charge some money," Wang said.

Before his stroke, Cui was a versatile performer, an accomplished musician and opera singer, as well as a skilled puppeteer. He also composed and directed his own creations, such as *Lady Mengjiang, Three Fights against the White-Boned Demon, Water Flooding Golden Mountain* and *Lotus Lamp*, which are all based on traditional Chinese folk stories. Though partially paralyzed, Cui is still able to maneuver five sticks in his left hand, controlling the head, hands and feet of a puppet, work usually

performed by two artists.

Cui says he still has an unrealized ambition: to write a history of Chinese shadow plays, based on the materials in his museum. He has already completed one monograph, titled *How to Perform Shadow Plays* and over 30 articles, including *A Brief Discussion on China's Shadow Play History* and *Mysterious and Complex Shadow Play Art*.

In Cui's eyes, the art of the shadow play is a treasure bestowed by our ancestors, but most people have not realized its true value. "I am not worried about the future. As long as I set up this museum, where I can show and spread the art, other things will follow," said Cui confidently.

Cui's biggest dream since he began studying shadow play art is to open a shadow play art museum. Now the dream has come true. His next plan is to recruit more students for the basic skills of shadow play art, "Otherwise, the art will have no successors."

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British Film Festival Arrives

By Yu Shanshan

After recent movie festivals from Australia and Ireland showing in Beijing, Britain is weighing in with the British Film Festival, which kicks off today at the Star City Cinema, Oriental Plaza.

Ten movies released in the past two years are to be screened, including *Calendar Girls*, which opens the festival, *Gosford Park*, *I Capture The Castle*, *Last Orders*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, *Wondrous Oblivion* and *About A Boy*, featuring top stars like Michael Caine, Hugh Grant, Colin Firth, Tim Roth and Maggie Smith.

"The American film industry is so big that we cannot avoid its influence on our film production," said Keith Davies, first secretary of the cultural and education section of the British Embassy, said at a press conference last Monday. "However, you can still identify a British film from an American film. We have our own styles of humor and sensitivity."

"Through the festival we hope to showcase some of our creative talents and to introduce Chinese movie-goers to the unique, original qualities of British cinema," Davies said.

Ticket: 40 yuan **Hotline:** 8518 6778 **Book online:** www.xfilmcity.com



Wondrous Oblivion



Plots with a View



Schedule:

June 11, 7:00,
Calendar Girls (108 min)
June 12, 6:50,
Plots with a View (94 min)
June 13, 6:50,
I Capture the Castle (113 min)

June 14, 6:50,
About a Boy (101 min)
June 15, 6:50,
To Kill a King (102 min)
June 16, 6:50,
Last Orders (109 min)
June 17, 6:50,

Gosford Park (137 min)
June 18, 6:50,
Wondrous Oblivion (106 min)
June 19, 6:50,
Bridget Jones's Diary (97 min)
June 20, 6:50,
Touching the Void (106 min)

Rock Review

A Frogging Miracle

By Wang Yao

Qingwa (Frog)'s second album, *A New Miracle*, released on May 22 by Kirin Kid Productions, represents a major step forward in the three young rockers' career.

The album, featuring 10 tracks,

shows Frog continuing the brisk and positive style that marked their first album, *The Frogs* in 2002. Singer Peng Jun's creativity has been influenced by a diversified range of music including British and American rock, punk and pop. Guitarist Yang Shiyun, meanwhile, has definite pop leanings, providing simple and smooth melodies that suit Peng's poetic lyrics.

The hit *New Miracle* (of which

there are three versions on the album) is an emotional rock song with a distinctive rhythm. *Home Alone* conveys a unique and acute observation of life, while *Power* is an angry anthem.

Three big names in British music, Julian Standon (Smiths and Green Head producer), Matthew Hendry and Julian Whitfield took charge of production.

What's on DVD

By Tom Spearman

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The two-disc DVD 9 version doesn't appear to be available yet, but this is such a must-have movie that it's worth picking up the ordinary version for now. Is this Clint Eastwood's best movie? It's probably the greatest of Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns. The picture quality is excellent and Ennio Morricone's most famous score sounds as thrilling



The Rules of the Game

French audiences were not too impressed with this satire on bourgeois society. As director Jean Renoir reveals in an illuminating interview on this superb Criterion Collection DVD 9 presentation, at the film's premiere someone even tried to burn down the cinema. Now, of course, *La Regle du Jeu* is considered perhaps Renoir's best movie. No sign of the two-disc version



yet, but the extras on the first disc are well worthwhile.

McCabe and Mrs. Miller

To the other extreme with this de-glamorized western, considered one of director Robert Altman's best movies. Hollywood golden boy Warren Beatty is cast against type as a two bit, would-be entrepreneur in turn of the century nowhere-ville. He opens a bordello and gets more than he bargained for with madam Julie Christie.



WORLDWIDE

J-Lo Marries Marc Anthony

Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez has married her current boyfriend, salsa singer Marc Anthony, barely five months after breaking her much-publicized engagement to actor Ben Affleck, *Us Weekly* reported Saturday. The magazine said Lopez, 33, married Latin music star Anthony, 34, who was divorced less than a week ago, at her home in Los Angeles on Saturday in front of about 40 guests. *Us Weekly* said it had pictures of a giant tent assembled on the estate and of guests coming and going among tables covered in white table cloths and flower centerpieces.



Jennifer Lopez

"It was a lovely low-key intimate affair for the closest friends and family," the magazine reported a friend as saying. "She didn't hardly tell anyone. Everyone was surprised," another unidentified friend told the magazine.

(Reuters)

Carey's Furious Firing Spree

Feisty diva Mariah Carey has hinted that she plans to ditch her business manager Ron Nash after firing her agents at William Morris and her long-time spokeswoman Cindi Berger. The singer was furious about the large sums of money her recent Charmbracelet world tour lost and has been vengefully removing anyone connected to the catastrophe.



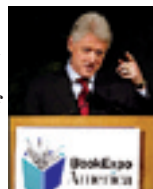
Mariah Carey

The star insists she is attempting to overcome her fiery temper, explaining, "I pummel a punch bag designed to look like a man which I call Bob. I enjoy releasing my anger." Her manager Benny Medina confesses that the tour lost money but says, "We're booking some corporate dates to offset the negative balance."

(IMDB)

Clinton Promotes Memoirs

Former US President Bill Clinton made the first of many public appearances to plug his forthcoming autobi-



Bill Clinton

ography, *My Life*, at the annual Book Expo America convention, a publishing trade show in Chicago. "I don't spare myself in this book," Clinton said of his memoirs which go on sale June 22.

The 900-page book, which Clinton wrote long-hand, follows his evolution from Arkansas schoolboy to Rhodes scholar and president, concluding when he leaves office in early 2000. Clinton said he sought to set his life against the larger history of America since the late 1940s. "A lot of presidential memoirs are, they say, dull and self-serving," he joked. "I hope mine is interesting and self-serving."

(AFP)

Fox, NBC to Air OJ Simpson Interviews

Ten years after the double murder for which he was acquitted but left a virtual pariah, OJ Simpson says in a television interview that he is angry at his slain ex-wife and hopes to star in comments Fox News Channel planned to air Thursday night from his recent interview with Greta Van Susteren, who covered Simpson's 1994-95 trial on charges of murdering ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman.



OJ Simpson

Since families of the murder victims were awarded \$33.5 million in damages in 1997, Simpson and his children have retreated into seclusion, living near Miami on a \$4 million pension that is exempt from civil court judgments.

Asked by Van Susteren about reports of his involvement in an upcoming reality show, Simpson said, "it's a takeoff on something called 'Punk'd,'" an MTV hidden-camera show featuring Ashton Kutcher playing pranks on celebrities. "It's me doing gags as Juice ... what they call 'juicing' people."

He also expressed sympathy for two other celebrities facing high-profile criminal cases at the moment - pop singer Michael Jackson and basketball star Kobe Bryant - saying he considers both innocent until proven guilty.

(Reuters)

Edited by Yu Shanshan

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Truly Compact Cars

By Wang Yumeng
Speed freaks, car nuts and model enthusiasts would be well advised to get it in gear and zip over the Lei Shen store, a specialist in automotive models. On hand is a dream lineup of autos of all kinds, and even some remarkably detailed miniature motorcycles, airplanes and other vehicles.
Store owner Tong Kuan recommended a few models to satisfy auto urgings for those who can't afford or drive the real things.
BMW X5 (380 yuan)
One of the more elegant and beautiful SUVs in the auto world, the BMX X5 has wowed power drivers with its mix of strength and flexibility. While far smaller, a well-made model of the luxury jeep maintains the sense of refined drivability and handling prowess for

which BMW is famed.
Mini Cooper (318 yuan)
The world waited with bated breath for the return of the beloved Mini Cooper after the British make was taken over by BMW. The result, whether in complete or miniature form, was well worth the wait. Steering a shrunken version of the responsive little car through a living room slalom or simply mounting a little Mini for desktop display is a fine way to enjoy the cars in this town, where their prices are just a bit less than ridiculous.
New Beetle (286 yuan)
Volkswagen won over a new generation of converts when it released its New Beetle, and more converts again when the convertible Cabriolet version hit the street. Lei Shen's model accurately represents the car's clever blending of classic styling with modern

lines that has led it to show up in the parking spots of not a few local fashion mavens.
Enzo Ferrari (480 yuan)
This is a model for true sports car fans, a beautiful, miniature reproduction of one of the fastest, finest production autos ever made. Every angle, every detail, oozes speed, sex and all the things that have made Ferrari the world's premier brand of exotic high performance machines.
Where: No. 202 Chengfu Lu, Haidian
Open: 9 am - 9 pm
Tel: 6254 4778



Jeep model, 286 yuan
Photos by Li Shuzhuan

Stand for Comics

By Wang Yao
Two years after opening as one of Beijing's first cartoon and comic book sales outlets, Dragon Creature has updated its collection to offer customers a more complete range of international comics.
Most of the cartoon books on the shelves are complete series, from *Shueisha*, *Xauat* and *Dragon Ball*, to the latest editions of *EVA* and *One Piece* available in hardcover and paperback editions (80 yuan - 160 yuan each).
The models and figures of Japanese cartoons on hand are of collectible quality, most from limited commemorative editions



celebrating beloved series like Xauat, Dragon Ball and Duraimon, otherwise known as Jigimao or Robot Cat. Prices range from 30 yuan to 3,000 yuan.
Kids, college students and cartoon lovers of all ages will be intrigued by the selection of original cartoon posters from

Hong Kong, Tokyo and America, perfect for sprucing up a child's room, a dorm or even an office cubicle. The largest is truly wall-sized, a full eight meters long and 1.2 meters wide.
Wearable signs of cartoon love include T-shirts printed with animated characters priced at a mere 45 yuan each. The store also stocks a range of elegant kimonos for lovers of cartoons inspired by Japanese history, allowing them to get fully into costume for better role play. The beautiful, imported kimonos are tagged at 300 yuan to 10,000 yuan each.
Where: NO. 67 Guozijian Street Andingmennei, Dongcheng
Tel: 8402 7166

Natural Touches

By Wang Yao
Nature in all its glory is one sale at stand No. 21 in the Tianyi market, which vends a wide variety of attractive, functional and possible environmentally-friendly products made of such materials as bamboo, twigs, pine timber and volcanic clay.
Some of the gnarliest items are made of pine, such as CD racks that stand up to 1.3 meters high and come crowned with a three-dimensional carving of a young woman's face. Finely grained pine also is the star material in a series of tall lamps topped by atmospheric shades made of rice paper mixed with bamboo leaves.
Unusual use is made of volcanic clay in wall hangings painted with natural plant dyes. Some of the items in this line, such as an elegantly different fish, are divided into three or four pieces made of molded clay or knitted linen in brown and white. Other volcanic selections include a vase containing 99 roses crafted from cooled molten earth in blue and purple (40-50 yuan each).
Similarly creative employment of rough natural materials is evident in pieces designed and carved from dried bamboo roots. Artisans select plump roots and then follow their natural shapes for inspiration in carvings of figures such as the legendary Chinese ghost catcher Zhong Kui (80



Wooden pendants

yuan). The original contours of the roots are used to portray his stern, iconic face, while smaller tendrils form his beard and other facial hair.
For a selection of the store's base materials in one item, check out the groups of "three no-no monkeys" (10 yuan to well over 100 yuan), made of bamboo, volcanic clay, bone and rosewood. Each of the three monkeys in each set is covering either its eyes, ears or mouth, meant to be a condemnation of the "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil" philosophy.
Or choose to get fruity with a sturdy paper-made watermelon, or other imitation produce such as potatoes, garlic and carrots that hang over the store's entrance. The hollow model are cleverly crafted to look just like the real things, without the flavor.
Where: first floor of Tianyi market, 158 Di'anmen Dajie, Dongcheng
Open: 9 am - 6 pm
Tel: 6405 8865

Cartoon Critters



Wood soldier puppet, 20 yuan

By Wang Yao
While its name sounds straight from Hawaii, the Kawayi store is more inspired by the products of Hollywood, Japanimation and icons from cartoons beloved around the world. On the shelves are a wide range of toys, action figures, figurines and puppets representing mostly cartoon characters of domestic and overseas origins.
Shoppers looking for an edge can pick up 3-D versions of the foul-mouthed boys from *South Park*. Tamer figurines, reproducing Papa Panda, ET, characters from *Monsters, Inc.* or Astro Boy, are also available.
Among the more elegant items are puppets made of pinewood that range from 0.3 to one meter high. They come in a wide variety of images, from Australian farmers and European cops to angels and cowboys.
When cute is the name of the game,



Stuffed monkey, 45 yuan

look no further than Little Bubu, a lovely bear that appears in soft yellow and blue. Bubus come as independent stuffed animals or shaped into pillows, schoolbags and caps, all of which maintain correct levels of softness and cuteness.
At the opposite end of the spectrum are ghoulish items more appropriate for Halloween, like figurines of witches, ghosts and black cats, even complete handmade costumes for those making their October 31 plans now.
Kawayi also stocks an intriguing line of music boxes, some wooden, some mechanical all topped with fun little figurines. Vocal, but not exactly musical, is a whimsical penny bank shaped like a cow. Drop a coin in the slot and the cow utters a satisfied "mooo".
Where: No. 158, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
Open: 9 am - 7 pm **Tel:** 6407 8815

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Mr. Alistair Crozier has worked at the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing for several years and is now serving as the embassy's first education counselor. He is the first education counselor commissioned by the Kiwi government anywhere in the world.

Beijing Today: Please describe your position as the first education counselor of the New Zealand and why that position has been set up in China.

Crozier: More and more foreign students are choosing New Zealand as a place to study, so the New Zealand government has responded by devoting more resources to maintaining strong education relationships with other countries.

My government announced a US\$24 million 'international education budget package' program on May 11, just before our education minister visited Beijing. The education counselor position in Beijing was established as part of this program, but I have been establishing the office since February this year.

BT: What are the major contents of the program?

Crozier: Under the program, our government, starting from next year, will provide 66 scholarships to foreign students to study in New Zealand, half undergraduates and half graduate-level, as well as scholarships for New Zealand students to study abroad. By 2007, we'll raise the annual number to 200 for foreign students and 200 for New Zealand students.

BT: How many Chinese students are studying in New Zealand at present?

Crozier: As of April this year, the estimated number of Chinese students was 32,877. Of these, over 9,000 are in our eight national universities, 4,300 in institutes of technology and polytechnics, about 100 in colleges of education, almost 3,000 in high schools and over 10,000 in PTEs (private training establishments), such as language and computer training schools.

BT: What are the trends among Chinese students applying to study in New Zealand?

Crozier: The number of new



Alistair Crozier

visa applicants had been increasing for years but decreased last year. One reason was SARS. Other reasons include the strong New Zealand dollar, and changes in study trends in large cities such as Beijing.

We have also had to deal with negative media reports about two language schools closing and a small number of criminal cases involving Chinese students.

BT: Please provide an overall picture of New Zealand's educational system.

Crozier: There are eight universities, 20 institutes of technology and polytechnics, and four colleges of education. These are all public tertiary institutions. We have no private universities.

We have some areas of niche expertise, like agricultural science, bio-technologies, creative computer technologies, and remember the special effects of the *Lord of Rings* were done in New Zealand. Environmental protection and resource management

are the other strong areas.

BT: What recommendations would you make to Chinese students who want to study in New Zealand?

Crozier: First, students should have a final academic goal before going to New Zealand. What level do you want to reach and what you want to do after graduation? What English and academic levels are required to achieve your study goal? How do I achieve those levels in a language school or other school? Maybe it's better to stay in China until my English level is higher? And so on. This is better than arriving in New Zealand with no fixed goal for the future.

Secondly, know more about the country before going there.

Thirdly, I recommend students become involved in the local community and make friends with New Zealanders.

Fourthly, look at a range of places to study in New Zealand. There are some excellent schools and institutions in smaller cities that have friendly communities and offer a typical New Zealand way of life.

BT: Many Chinese students have complained about the quality of New Zealand's education system, and the high cost of living. What are your comments?

Crozier: Actually the num-

ber of complaints is not high. But usually people who are very happy do not talk as loudly as those who are not!

If students are not satisfied with the quality of education, accommodation, or other issues, they can report to their school and the New Zealand government.

Regarding social security, New Zealand is an extremely safe country. But students can contact the police at any time.

BT: Please describe the procedures for applying for a visas. Is it complicated and difficult?

Crozier: Before receiving a visa, foreign students must be enrolled at a New Zealand school that is on two government lists — a list of schools with high academic quality and a list of schools that offer quality care and advice to students.

Our visa section also looks at a student's ability to support him or herself financially during their stay in New Zealand.

Where to go to apply for a student visa to study in New Zealand:

New Zealand Immigration Service
Add: Ta Yuan 2-5-1, No.14, Liang-mahe Nanlu, Beijing
Tel: 6532 6688
Fax: 6532 5681
Email: nzisbeijing@nzis.dol.govt.nz
Website: www.immigration.govt.nz

Cream of the Crop:

New Zealand's Eight National Universities

University of Auckland:

The university has eight faculties: arts; business and economics; creative arts and industries; engineering; law; medical and health sciences; science; and theology.

Contact: International Office, University of Auckland, 7 Symonds Street, Auckland, New Zealand

Tel: +64-9-308 2386

Fax: +64-9-373 7405

Email: international@auckland.ac.nz

Website: www.auckland.ac.nz

University of Canterbury:

University of Canterbury:

The university is located in Christchurch, the largest city in New Zealand's South Island.

The university offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in arts, commerce, education, engineering, fine arts, forestry, law, music and science.

Contact: International Manager, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8020, New Zealand

Tel: +64-3-366 7001 ext. 8998

Fax: +64-3-364 2171

Email: international@regy.canterbury.ac.nz

Website: Canterbury.ac.nz

University of Waikato:

The university provides courses in: arts and social sciences, computing and mathematical sciences, education, law, business management, Maori and Pacific development, and science and technology.

Contact: International Center, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand

Tel: +64-7- 838 4439

Fax: +64-7-838 4269

Email: international@waikato.ac.nz

Website: waikato.ac.nz

Massey University:

The university has five colleges in the fields of sciences, design, social sciences education and business. All the colleges provide diversified degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Contact: International Students Services, Massey University, Private Bag 11 222, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Tel: +64-6-350 5599

Fax: +64-6-350 5698

Email:

international@massey.ac.nz

Website: www.massey.ac.nz

Lincoln University:

This university is located in the middle of the Southern Island, the Canterbury plains, and less than half an hour from Christchurch.

The six divisions of the university are: animal and food sciences, applied management and computing, commerce, environmental management and design, human sciences, and soil, plant and ecological sciences.

Contact: Lincoln University International Centre, PO Box 94, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand

Tel: +64-3-325 2811

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Email: wwwic@lincoln.ac.nz

Website: www.lincoln.ac.nz

Victoria University of Wellington:

The university has five faculties of: architecture and design, commerce and administration, humanities and social sciences, law, and science.

Contact: Victoria International Service, PO Box 600, 10 Kelburn Parade, Wellington 6001, New Zealand

Tel: +64-4-463 5350

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Email: victoria-international@vuw.ac.nz

University of Otago:

The university's four schools of business, health sciences, humanities, and sciences provide a wide range of subjects and courses.

Contact: International Office, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand

Dr Roberto Rabel, Director, International Office

Tel: +64-3-479 5295

Fax: +64-3-479 8367

Email:

rob.rabel@otago.ac.nz

Website: www.otago.ac.nz

Auckland University of Technology:

The university originated from the Auckland Technical School, established in 1895. It now has five schools of arts, business, health, computing, science and engineering.

Contact: International Student Centre, Private Bag 92006, 56 Wakefield St, Auckland 1020

Tel: +64-9-917 9637

Fax: +64-9-917 9925

Email:

international.centre@aut.ac.nz

Q & A: Readers' questions for Alistair Crozier

Q: Are there training courses available for working staff, such as the short-term courses and on-the-job training courses?

A: Many New Zealand education institutions offer vocational training to groups of professionals from overseas. For example, many Chinese teachers receive English and teaching training at our colleges of education, polytechnics or universities. Chinese officials also undertake group study in New Zealand.

We also offer short-term courses

for individuals - if their employers allow them to take time off, employees can usually find a course of study to suit them in New Zealand.

Q: What kinds of accommodation are offered on campuses? What should students do if they want to live in local residents' houses?

A: All New Zealand universities offer accommodation to international students.

'Homestay' arrangements in New Zealand are very common. The New Zealand government sets strict rules

for homestay arrangements to ensure they are safe and suitable. Students interested in homestays should ask their university or school for advice and information.

Q: How many semesters are there in the New Zealand university school year and what are their lengths?

A: The New Zealand university academic year runs from early March to late October. The year is usually split up into two semesters, and students can usually enroll in classes starting in March or July. Some New Zealand universities also offer a 'summer semester' during the summer vacation, from early November

to late February.

Q: What types of people does the New Zealand government give preference to in consideration for immigration?

A: New Zealand looks for people who have skills, experience and relevant job offers to fill these - there are different work opportunities in different parts of New Zealand, depending on the nature of the economy.

We also look for people who value our culture, our country and our way of life. We want people who immigrate to New Zealand to feel welcome and able to make a positive contribution to New Zealand society.

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By Lü Pinrou

The historic area east of Dongdan has received a full-scale make-over in the past couple years, many of the crumbling and fine old homes cleared to make way for new apartments, new offices and even new streets. The main venue through the area is Jinbao Lu, hewn through the rubble where no major road used to run, cutting straight from Jinyu Hutong near Wangfujing east to Yabao Lu on the edge of the Second Ring Road.

At the vanguard of the development of this new thoroughfare is a row of restaurants and even a few bars representing a wide spectrum of flavors, while prices are pretty low across the board. Jinbao Lu has yet to establish a real reputation for dining, but the number of customers at its restaurants is on the rise, and with its enviable location, parking options and novelty, the street is certainly a new food area to look out for.



Pasta of wary kinds at Erica

Tucked among the hulking buildings recently finished or still in construction along Jinbao Lu is **Erica**, an elegant little bar. In the evenings, the owners put candles in the windows, giving it a romantic and homey feel.

Aside from a full range of beverages, alcoholic and non-, Erica serves an interesting array of western-style foods with Chinese characteristics. The house specials are sizzling hot plates topped with either chicken or beef (*tieban jirou* or *tieban niurou*, 45 yuan each). While they look straight out of a Chinese restaurant, they have a distinct foreign flavor thanks to their secret sauce.

Another price of the kitchen is garlic tuna toast (25 yuan), an intricate sandwich made of layers of toast, garlic butter, freshly mixed tuna salad and secret flavorings. For a more filling meal, select the spaghetti or one of the house special T-bone steaks, made with select imported beef and priced at an acceptable 98 yuan.

Where: Jinbao Street, Dongcheng **Open:** 10:30 am - 2 am **Average cost:** 40 yuan **Tel:** 8511 8898



Dates wrapped in sticky rice (xin tai ran) to melt the heart.

Next door to Erica is **Deyixing**, a small restaurant that serves Beijing-style dishes. All kinds of traditional Beijing foods are available, and at low, low prices. Sink your teeth into starters of *douzhi* (2 yuan per bowl), a pungent soup made of fermented beans that some people love, and *zha gezhi*, thin deep-fried strips of dough with a garlic-laden dipping sauce, or pick up a bowl of *zhajiangmian*, traditional noodles flavored with a rich sauce made of pork and beans and topped with six kinds of diced vegetables, a steal at just 8 yuan.

Open: 10 am - 2:30 am **Average cost:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6522 6696



Steamed white fish (qingzheng baiyu)

A bit more sophisticated, though still relatively inexpensive, is the



Quiet elegance at Erica

New Dining Street in the Making?

Taihu Renjia restaurant. The kitchen specializes in the refined, fresh foods of Jiangsu Province, served in quantities and priced aimed at the masses.

One house special is the Taihu sanbai set, which literally translates to "three white things from Lake Tai", consists of three dishes made from white fish, silver fish and fresh shrimp. Each of these aquatic treats offers different flavors and textures, as the white fish (*baiyu*, 116 yuan per kilo) is tender and nutritious, the small fried silver fish laden with eggs and salty flavor (*yingyu*, 18 yuan) and the shrimp stir-fried with chunks of bamboo shoots, beans and carrot (28 yuan).

Another way to get a sampling of different Jiangsu-style flavors is by picking a different set meal for three diners that includes a country-style fried fish (*nongjia xiaochao*) and a clay-pot casserole (*shaguo*) for a single price of 158 yuan. Wash down that or other authentic eastern fare with He brand *huangjiu*, or yellow rice wine, a rich brew made in Jiangsu that fetches 28 yuan per bottle. Finish a meal, or enjoy an easy lunch, by delving into the selection of delicious snacks including *zongzi* (steamed rice packets), *baozi* (steamed buns) and *hundun* (wontons).

Open: 6:30 am - 12 am **Average cost:** 40 yuan **Tel:** 8511 2330

Just south of the intersection of Jinbao Lu and Chaonei Nanxiaojie is another small smattering of restaurants, including the inconspicuous **Fengyuxuan**. The menu is filled with pretty common dishes, though most are done remarkably well. The sauteed sliced beef with oyster sauce (*haoyou niurou*) and pork fillet with sweet and sour sauce (*tangcu*

liji), both priced at 25 yuan, are among the more popular dishes with foreign friends.

Where: Chaonei Nanxiaojie, Dongcheng **Open:** 11:30 am - 10 pm **Average cost:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6522 6068

A few meters further south is the much larger restaurant **Xibei Xiangqing**, which serves up authentic dishes from China's remote northwest, including plenty of requisite lamb grilled or roasted. The small front door leads down a narrow passage into a bustling main dining area. Among the most popular dishes on hand are roast lamb ribs and succulent chaun'r, or kebabs.

Open: 11 am - 2 pm, 6 pm - midnight **Average cost:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6525 5500



Duck done right

Probably the busiest restaurant in the area is the **Zanjiade Caiguan**, which offers something for everyone with dishes representing favorite from Sichuan, Guangdong and Beijing cuisines. One pride of the kitchen is its *kaoya*, or Peking duck, made with the same breed of fowl used by the capital's most reputed duck dealer, Qianjude. Served with tender pancakes, strips of fresh green onion and rich bean sauce, Zanjiade Caiguan's duck can stand up to more reputed competitors and comes in sets starting at 128 yuan.

Another dish certain to please diners of native and foreign

persuasion is the sweet-and-sour Guangdong special sauteed chicken breast with lemon sauce (*xining jianruanji*, 30 yuan). The chicken is fried crisp on the outside, tender and juicy inside, and topped with a vivid, sharp yellow sauce. Also available is a wide range of fresh seafood choices at decent prices.

Open: 24 hours **Average cost:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6525 6666

Last, but not least, is the eatery next door to Zanjiade Caiguan called **Haowei Renjia**. This specialist in the cuisines of Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces sports an impressive menu and ornate interior, decorated in Qing Dynasty style with copies of royal stamps on the walls and golden dragons winding up the wide red pillars.

The kitchen cooks up fine versions of refined Sujiang-style dishes, such as *dadu gansi*, a complicated mixture of flavors and textures made with chicken, bamboo, sausage, and soybeans. It is presented in a milky white sauce and has a winning fresh taste that makes it a bargain at 20 yuan.

Carnivores are sure to be sated by the *bingtang zhouzi*, a meaty pig elbow cooked meltingly tender with rock candy giving it a multi-layered sweet and salty flavor. At 38 yuan, it is another great deal.

Open: 9:30 am - 2 pm, 4:30-10 pm **Average cost:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6559 9999

Photos by Li Shuzhuan



Photo by Joel Kirkhart

Bountiful Blossoms

By Joel Kirkhart

One of nature's best treats of the summer are lively nasturtiums (hanjinlian in Chinese), bright and hardy little flowers that happen to be as delicious as they are attractive. Nasturtium blossoms are normally orange or yellow, and they and their round, green leaves have a peppery flavor that make them perfect for tossing into a salad.

Another of nasturtium's winning qualities is it is easy to grow, whether in a garden, on a balcony or inside a sunny window. They love the sun, but take lots of watering, basically requiring a daily dose in exposed positions.

When properly taken care of, even a small plant will produce loads of blossoms and leaves, certainly enough to spice up plenty of summer salads or to turn into creative, impressive dishes. They also produce lots of seeds, which are edible when young and sometimes pickled, a process that turns them into little green nuggets similar to capers.

Recipe:
Strawberry-Nasturtium Salad

This unique salad is filled with flavor and color. The sweetness of the strawberries is perfectly balanced by the peppery sharpness of the nasturtiums and spark of the vinegar for a salad that everyone will love. This salad should not be made too far in advance to prevent wilting of the nasturtium blossoms.

- 1 pint sliced strawberries
- 1/3 cup nasturtium blossoms
- 2 tablespoons champagne or white wine vinegar
- 2-3 tablespoons sugar

Toss together all ingredients. Add more sugar or vinegar to taste in keeping with sweetness of strawberries.
Makes four servings.

Recipe:
Nasturtium and Potato Soup

A soothing, colorful and peppery mixture that can be served hot or blended and cooled to make an interesting alternative to the classic cold soup vichyssoise.

- 2 tbsp butter or margarine
- 1/2 large sweet onion, finely chopped
- 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped into small cubes
- 25-30 nasturtium leaves, stems removed
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth (or water)
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Handful of nasturtium blossoms for garnish

Melt butter in a soup pot, then add onion and cook until soft but not browned, stirring occasionally, around five minutes. Add the potatoes and nasturtium leaves and cook until leaves are wilted, about another five minutes. Pour in stock and milk, then add bay leaf, salt and pepper and bring soup to a boil. Cover and gently simmer until the potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Remove the bay leaf and discard. Serve hot as is, or puree the soup in a blender or food processor until smooth. Garnish with fresh, cleaned nasturtium blossoms. Makes six servings.

Recipe:
Nasturtium Vinegar

This beautiful vinegar, a natural for salad dressings and sauces, as well as more general cooking, makes an unusual, personalized and delicious gift.

- 1 cup nasturtium leaves, flowers, and buds
- 1 pint champagne, white wine, or apple cider vinegar

Place the ingredients in a clean clear glass jar or bottle. Tightly seal and let sit for at least three weeks to age before using. Nasturtium blossoms can remain in the vinegar for decoration, just make sure the vinegar always covers the flowers or they will mold. Pour vinegar into tall, fluted glass jars or other decorative glass vessels for presentation as gifts.
Makes one pint of vinegar.

Personal Classifieds

Accommodation

A well-decorated apartment in Wudaokou, close to Tsinghua University, for rent. Furniture and appliances available. Two bedrooms, one sitting room. Foreign tenant who can live at least for one year and English-speaking is preferred. Price negotiable. Contact: 8286 5897 or email: greensleeves@vip.sina.com

One bedroom apartment of 60 square meters for rent. Ten minutes from World Trade Center, with home appliances and broadband Internet connection. 3,000 yuan/month. Email: hugojin@163.com

260-square-meter apartment on 12th floor of Building A in Global Trade Mansion, separate dining, living and parlor rooms, three bedrooms, wooden floors, high-grade

household electric appliances, luxuriously decorated and furnished in western classical style. Near Hanwei Building, convenient transportation. \$4,000-\$4,500 per month. Contact Miss Wang 13901305619 Email: ninawang_bj@yahoo.com

Situations Vacant and Wanted

The Office of Agricultural Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy invites applications for the position of full-time office assistant. Applicants must be good in English, both speaking and writing. Men with driving licenses preferred. Please apply within June 2004 by fax at 010-65323950 or E-mail: moacbj@hotmail.com

Jenny, a local English teacher in university with eight years experience in bilingual

language teaching, conference interpreting and translation, is looking for a job. Contact: 8617 6369

A law student would like to find a part-time job of computer typing till September. Contact: 13691018055 or email: sherry919@163.com

Hao Xiaodi, male, 44, graduated from TU Delft, Netherlands with a PhD and now working at a local university as a professor. Seeking position providing educational consulting for Chinese studying in the Netherlands and foreign companies and organizations in consultancy and translation of environmental protection in China. Tel: 6831 5906 Email: xdhao@hotmail.com

Traditional Chinese geo-

graphic map study and culture teaching. Contact Wang Hongqi by email: kkdr@sina.com

Language Exchange

Sherry, 20, law student, hopes to find a native English speaker (girl preferred) for language exchange. Contact: 13691018055; email: sherry919@163.com

A professional and experienced Chinese teacher would like to lead you or your children in some fun Chinese lessons. Contact: sunlight9838@sina.com, or 6557 3127 (evenings)

A student, 24, seeking a native English speaker as her language exchange partner. Her mobile: 13671047442, email: xiangendi@sina.com

Monica, a 22-year-old girl from Xinjiang, English major,

seeks a partner for language exchange. She can speak standard Mandarin without any accent. Her email: moniczj@163.com

Jane, a local editor with a BA in literature and language, hopes to meet a native English speaker who wants to learn Chinese. Her email: yuanjane789@yahoo.com.cn

A Chinese man working in a news agency in Beijing would like to find a native English speaker to improve his English. He used to be a teacher in a high school. His email: eddie_1974@sina.com.cn

A Chinese Siemens employee, fluent in English, Mandarin, and German is seeking a native speaker of German willing to practice conversation with a Chinese native speaker. Tel: 6434 6641; mo-

bile: 13520341372

Personals

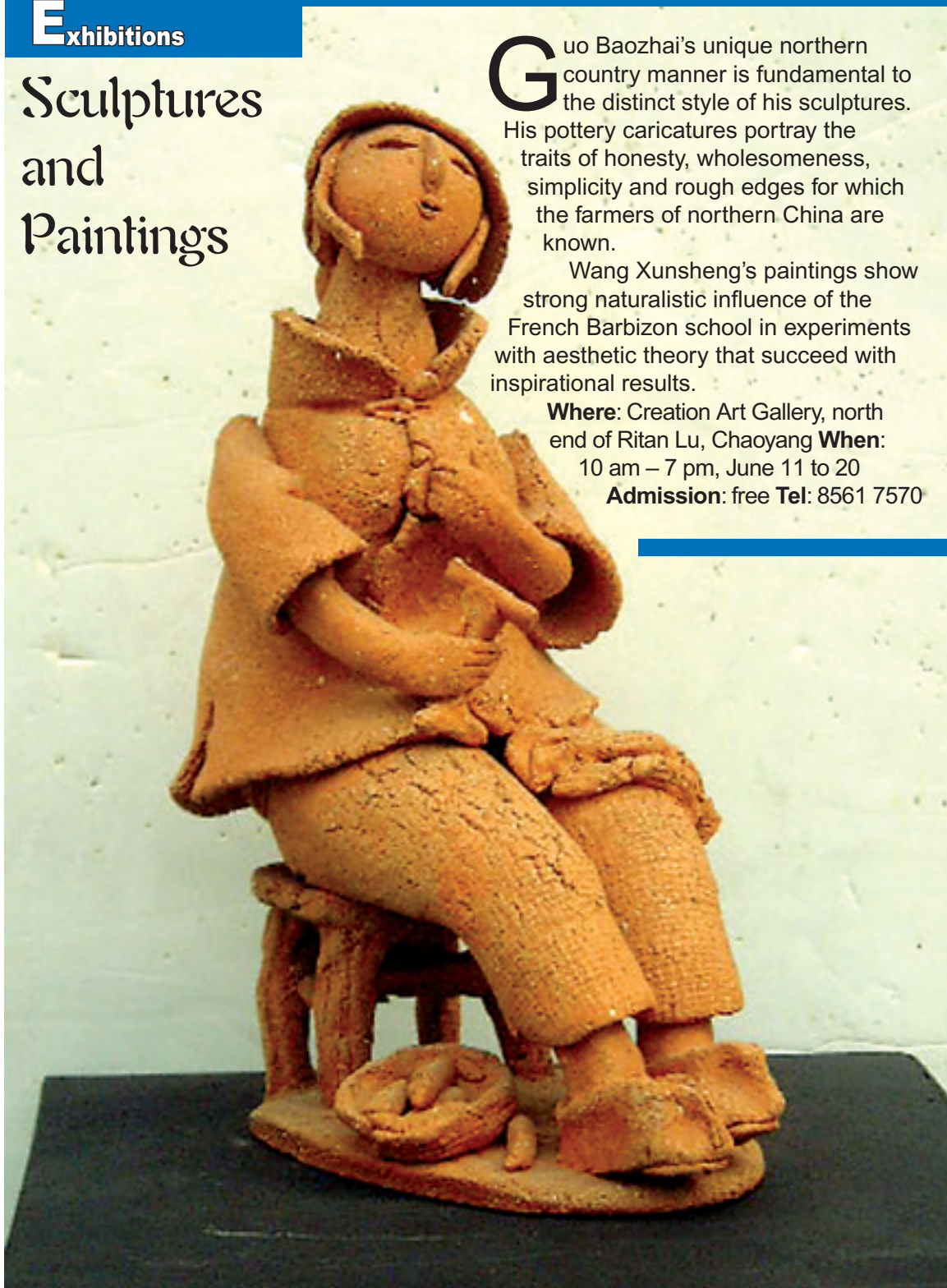
Mr. Zhang received generous help from Americans when he studied and worked in the US. Now he would like to do something for Americans. If you need any help in China, especially in Beijing, email him at gaozhzh@yahoo.com

Successful 40-year-old man living in New York would like to meet a nice Asian girl between the age of 20 to 40 for marriage. Please email: douglas10019@hotmail.com

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Exhibitions

Sculptures and Paintings



Guo Baozhai's unique northern country manner is fundamental to the distinct style of his sculptures. His pottery caricatures portray the traits of honesty, wholesomeness, simplicity and rough edges for which the farmers of northern China are known.

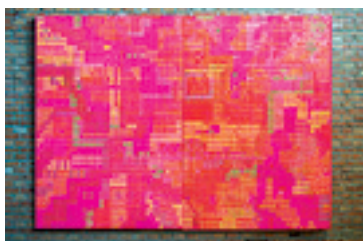
Wang Xunsheng's paintings show strong naturalistic influence of the French Barbizon school in experiments with aesthetic theory that succeed with inspirational results.

Where: Creation Art Gallery, north end of Ritan Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 10 am - 7 pm, June 11 to 20 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570

Modern Art by Luo Qi

A show of paintings and watercolors by Luo Qi, one of the best known and most promising modern artists in China. His passionate, emotional works have toured in shows in the US and Europe.

Where: Qin gallery, Huaweili Enjoy Paradise 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City) Chaoyang **When:** 9:30 am - 7 pm, until June 22 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8779 0461



Persona 3

The Persona 3 project by Ai Weiwei, Ding Yi and Wang Xingwei is an attempt to gamble with the steadiness of artistic dependence on conventional imprimaturs, and performed by misleading reciprocation of stylistic quotations. The three artists have dedicated this project to Hans Van Dijk, who never stopped looking at things.

Where: China Art Archives and Warehouse, opposite Nangao

police office, Caochangdi, Jichang Fulu, Chaoyang **When:** 2-5 pm (closed Mondays, Tuesdays) until June 20 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8456 5152

Fish Traditions

Riots of color make this show of oil paintings by Wang Yuping a feast for the eyes. Wang crafts dramatic combinations and contrasts of color as he paints with exciting hues of bold primary colors to quieter more reserved pastels, much like his own personality. He works from memory and imagination without studies or sketches.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen **When:** until July 4 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6525 1005

Weekend Trip to Chengde

Visit the UNESCO-listed imperial resort of Chengde with Chinese Culture Club expert Professor Zhao. First visit the surrounding temples area on Saturday, and then the 18th century Imperial Summer Villa and gardens on Sunday.

Where: meet at Chinese Culture Club (29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang) to catch the bus **When:** depart Saturday, 9:30 am **Admission:** 480 yuan (440 yuan for members) **Note:** Email to reserve, deposits required for reservations

Performance



The Legend of Magic

This play features famed Chinese director Feng Xiaogang as a master artist and Li Ning in the lead as a young artist. The traditional rules of Chinese magic are broken in outright challenges to popular magic performances from abroad.

Where: Chang'an Theater, 7 Jianguomennei Dajie, Chaoyang **When:** June 11 - 15, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80 - 800 yuan **Tel:** 6510 1310

Music



Solo Show of Stefanie Sun

Popular Singaporean pop singer Stefanie Sun takes the stage at Capital Gymnasium for a solo show that will feature fans' favorite energetic melodies and romantic ballads.

Where: Capital Gymnasium (Shouti), 54 Baishiqiao Lu,

Xicheng **When:** Saturday, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 180 - 1,200 yuan **Tel:** 6833 5552

Let the Memories Flow

With a theme of reminiscence, this concert features some beloved old songs from China and abroad. Baritone Qu Qinghai will belt out *Moon River* among other classic tunes.

Where: Concert Hall of National Library, 39 Baishiqiao Lu, Haidian **When:** Friday, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 60 - 200 yuan **Tel:** 8854 5731



Jams

Nameless Highland

Experimental rock and weird outfits with Glorious Pharmacy (Meihao Yaodian).

Where: Nameless Highland Bar, Building 14, Anhuili Area 1, Yayuncun, (200 metres north of Yayuncun Hospital intersection) **When:** Friday, 9 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6489 1613

Pop at What

High Color brings a touch of pop to the What Bar for a bargain price of 20 yuan, including a drink.

Where: What Bar, 72 Beichang Jie (just north of west gate of Forbidden City) **When:** Saturday, 9 pm **Admission:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 13910209249

Punk Night

It's punk time at Loup Chante again, meaning performances by regulars such as Recycle, Joyside and more.

Where: Loup Chante, 38 Chengfulu, Shiweiyang (200 meters south of Tsinghua University west gate) **When:** Saturday, 9 pm **Admission:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6276 7355



TV and Radio Highlights

HBO

11 Friday

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets 9 pm

12 Saturday

Red Dragon 9 pm

13 Sunday

Trapped 9:30 pm

14 Monday

Stealing Beauty 12:30 am

15 Tuesday

Six Feet Under 31: The Trap 10 pm

16 Wednesday

The Sum of All Fears 9 pm

17 Thursday

HBO Sneak Peek:

Austin Powers in Goldmember 8:45 pm

CCTV-9

Monday - Friday

Around China 6:30 am

Cultural Express 8:30 am

Nature and Science

Chinese Civilization 11:30 am

Cultural Express 2:30 pm

Nature and Science

Learning Chinese 5:30 pm

Dialogue 7:30 pm

News Updates

Asia Today 8 pm

Sports Scene 11:15 pm

Saturday

Travelogue 9:30 am

Center Stage 11:30 am

Sunday

Sports Weekend 10 am

Documentary 10:30 am

This Week 12:30 am

China Radio International 91.5 FM

Monday - Friday

Easy FM Afternoon 2-7 pm

Fun in Beijing 5:05-5:30 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

Saturday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Euro Hit 40 12:05-1 pm

Music Sans Frontiers 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

Sunday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Jazz Beat 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

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By Lü Pinrou

Movies



Woman Sesame Oil Maker (Xianghun Nu)

Directed by Xie Fei, starring Siqin Gaowa, Wu Yujuan, Lei Luosheng, and Chen Baoguo. This film, which bagged a Gold Bear Award at the 1993 Berlin International Film Festival, follows the plight of two generations of peasant women who outshine their husbands in every way and suffer dearly for it.

Siqin Gaowa plays a resourceful woman who gets her less-than brilliant son married to a very capable young village girl. Afterwards, the two women are united by their strong response to the injustice of the conventional practices in the village.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** Friday, 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303

La Strada (The Road, 1954)

Directed by Federico Fellini, starring Anthony Quinn and Giulietta Masina. This classic tells the story of Gelsomina, who is sold for a few coins by her very poor mother to Zampano, a fair-ground wrestler. She follows him on the road ("la strada") and helps him during his shows, during which Zampano treats her badly. She meets a clown and yearns to run off with him, but he throws her into confusion when he points out that Zampano is in fact in love with her. In Italian with English subtitles

Where: Italian Embassy, 2 Dongerjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang **When:** Friday, 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187



8 Femmes

Directed by Francois Ozon, starring Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, Emmanuelle Béart, Fanny Ardant, Virginie Ledoyen, Danielle Darrieux, Ludivine Sagnier and Firmine Richard. In France in the 1950s, Marcel, the only man

in a family of eight women, is found dead with a knife in his back. Which of the women did the deed?

Where: Zhongying Cinema, Xiaoxitian, Xinjiekouwai Dajie, Xicheng **When:** June 17, 6:30 pm **Admission:** 25 yuan **Tel:** 6226 3455

Big Happenning (Da Shijian)

Directed by Johnnie To, starring Kelly Chen and Richie Ren. The newest flick from Hong Kong filmmaker Johnnie To examines the influence of the media on the justice system. In Mandarin with Chinese subtitles.

Where: UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Shuangyushu, Haidian **When:** opened June 10 **Tel:** 8211 2851

Activities

YPHH Trip to the Races

On Saturday, the YPHH invites you for a day out to the track, a new center for professional horse races running since last year. Drinks and German-style barbecue, replete with sausages, steaks and salads, will add to the winnings.

Where: Tongzhou District **When:** Saturday, leave at 11 am, return around 8 pm **Cost:** 380 yuan **Note:** To join this trip you need to purchase your tickets in advance through www.yphh.com

Until not so long ago, Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province, was considered by many Chinese to be the epitome of the impossibly distant, forbiddingly inaccessible border region city. During the Second World War, it became a temporary refuge for many people from the north and east of China fleeing the fighting. Today, it is a popular destination for tourists, attracted by the numerous ethnic minorities that live in the area, picturesque natural scenery and the delicious local cuisine.

Heading South Down Guiyang Way

Hua Xi



Huangguoshu Waterfall



Guiyang countryside



Old residence in Guiyang



Huaxi

Photos by imaginechina

By Wang Fang

Mountains surround Guiyang. The name of the city is a reference to its geographical location, south of Gui Shan. In Chinese, the south side of a mountain is called *yang*, according to the I-Ching.

Even though the downtown area has been largely leveled in recent years, it is still hilly enough to deter cyclists. Unlike most other Chinese cities, there are very few bicycles to be seen on the streets. As in Chongqing and Qingdao, the streets and houses follow the rise and fall of the mountains.

Sightseeing

At Fufeng Shan, one of the surrounding mountains, there is a memorial temple to Wang Yangming. Around 400 years ago, in the Ming Dynasty, 28-year-old Wang Yangming was demoted for offending a dignitary in the imperial court. Narrowly escaping the capital with his life, he eventually made his way to Guiyang.

In this remote backwater, he started pondering the meaning of life, and how it was possible to fall from high favour to his present state of humiliation. After years of meditation, he established a "school of the mind" based on Confucianism. The memorial temple is kept well and there is a teahouse inside.

Downtown Dashizi

The busiest part of Guizhou is Dashizi (literally "big intersection"), in the centre of town. In the 1940's, the two main streets met here, hence its name.

To the south of Dashizi is the Fountain. It was original called the Bronze Statue, because of a statue of Zhou Xicheng, the first governor of Guizhou Province, that stood there. The statue has long gone, but the fountain remains.

Zhou Xicheng's name is also related to the story about Guiyang's first car and the city's only slate-paved street. The first vehicle was carried over the mountains into the city by a team of porters. However at that time, the roads in Guiyang would turn to a pool of mud after a heavy fall of rain, rendering the vehicle useless. Zhou ordered that a street near the government offices be paved so he could drive his vehicle in all weather.

Dade Academy

In 1894, a college for the study of foreign languages and science was established in Guiyang. Called Jinshi Academy, it took students from the south-west border area of China with the aim of training a new generation with new ideas and modern knowledge.

After the failure of the attempt to introduce constitutional reform and modernization in 1898, Jingshi Academy was shut down, however a former student named Huang Ganfu

invited a group of people with the same ideals and goals to found a new college, which became Dade Academy. It included a college for female students and advocated the spread of new knowledge. It also sent its students abroad to learn from other countries, and became the symbol of civilization in Guiyang.

Dade Academy, to the south of Dashizi, is today a recreation center with theater, bookshop and a teahouse. The rear is occupied by Dade Primary School.

Qingyan Town

Qingyan, a town lying just a few kilometres from Guiyang, has become famous as the setting for the movie, *The Missing Gun*.

Built as a military fortress more than 600 years ago, it is the birthplace of Zhao Yijiong, the first "number one scholar in the imperial examination."

Christian missionary work in Guiyang also started from here. There are still many churches and both Catholic and Protestant believers in the town.

On the doors of some churches, there are the traditional Chinese posters on the exterior, and pictures of the Virgin Mary on the inside.

Nightlife

Shanxi Lu and Hequan Lu are the center of the towns nightlife district. There are many newly opened pubs, shops and cafes that attract young locals to play cards and to chat, as well as visitors.

Local festivals

There are 49 ethnic groups

living in Guizhou Province, which has the third highest number of ethnic minorities after Yunnan and Xinjiang. These ethnic groups account for 14 percent of the total population in Guiyang, and are mainly Miao, Buyi, Dong and Yi.

Each group has their own culture, history and festivals, and there are many other festivals and celebrations to attract visitors throughout the year. A selection are listed below.

Buyi Customs and Practices Festival, Zhenfeng County (July 5)

The ancient music of Buyi ethnic group; exhibiting Buyi clothes, cuisine and etiquette.

Kaili International Reed-Pipe Festival (October 1-5)

Reed-pipe playing competition; exhibition of costumes of different ethnic groups; bull fighting; cockfighting; visits to ethnic villages and a carnival of ethnic groups.

Gulou Festival (October 3-7)

Festival of Dong culture in Liping County. Folk song competition; Dong drama and opera; wrestling competition.

Leishan Miao New Year Cultural Week (November 20-26)

Celebrate the Miao New Year in a Miao village; Miao cuisine and customs; reed-pipe playing competition; folk song competition.

Anshun Fortress Cultural Festival (July 5-10)

Demonstrating the fortress culture which keeps the custom of Ming Dynasty; holding Dixi (earth drama) show, folk song competition,

stiltwalking, clothing exhibitions, lantern shows; Buddhist chanting and blessings.

China Wine Capital Festival (August-September)

Renhuai City – the Chishui River valley and Yanjin River valley are the wine making capital of China.

Specialty restaurants Sifanghe Pot City

Famous for the Guizhou style sour fish soup (*suantangyu*) that was all the rage in Beijing last year.

Where: 215 Shachong Nanjie
Tel: (0851) 3846 542

Baiji Yan (100 chicken dinner)

The house speciality is roast chicken, chicken with chilli peppers and spiced cold rice pancake

Where: 24 Xinhua Lu
Tel: (0851) 5512 646

Huaxiwan Beef Rice Noodles

Specializes in rice noodles with beef soup and pickled cabbage, the first choice of many Guiyang locals for breakfast

Where: The main restaurant is in Huaxi Jie, but there are four or five branches around town.

Zhenfeng Sticky Rice

The steamed sticky rice is fried with cured meat and chilli peppers.

Where: Zhongtian Square, Dousi Jie

Souvenir shopping

Qiancui has its own workshop, selling wax died cloth and crystal jewellery.

Where: 181 Beijing Lu

Qianyibao has an extensive range of embroidery and silver jewellery.

Where: 159 Beijing Lu

Accommodation

Yunyan Hotel – the first hotel opened to foreigners in Guizhou Province. The three-story building, built in 1956, is on the busiest section of Beijing Lu, but it is quiet inside.

Where: 169, Beijing Lu

Tel: (0851) 6823 324

Guizhou Hotel – the biggest four-star hotel in Guizhou.

Where: 66 Beijing Lu

Tel: (0851) 6823 888

Guizhou Miracle Hotel

Where: 1 Beijing Lu

Tel: (0851) 6771 888

Weather

There are four distinct seasons in Guiyang, but both summer and winter are relatively mild. The average temperature in July, the hottest month, is 24°C.

Getting there

Airfares from Beijing to Guizhou range from 1,380 to 1,730 yuan. The downtown area is comparatively small. You can take an overlook of the city from the Yangming Park. It takes one day for a round trip from Guiyang to some other scenery spots, like Anshun, Huangguoshu Waterfall and Kaiyang.